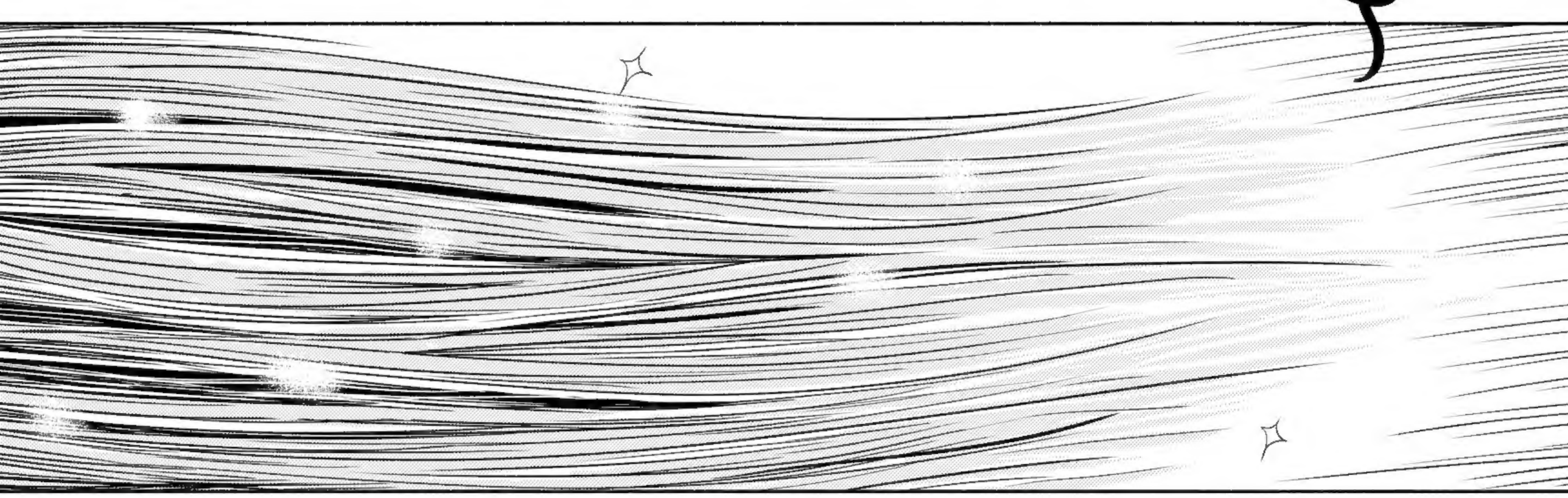
JUNJI ITO

SENSOR

SENSOR



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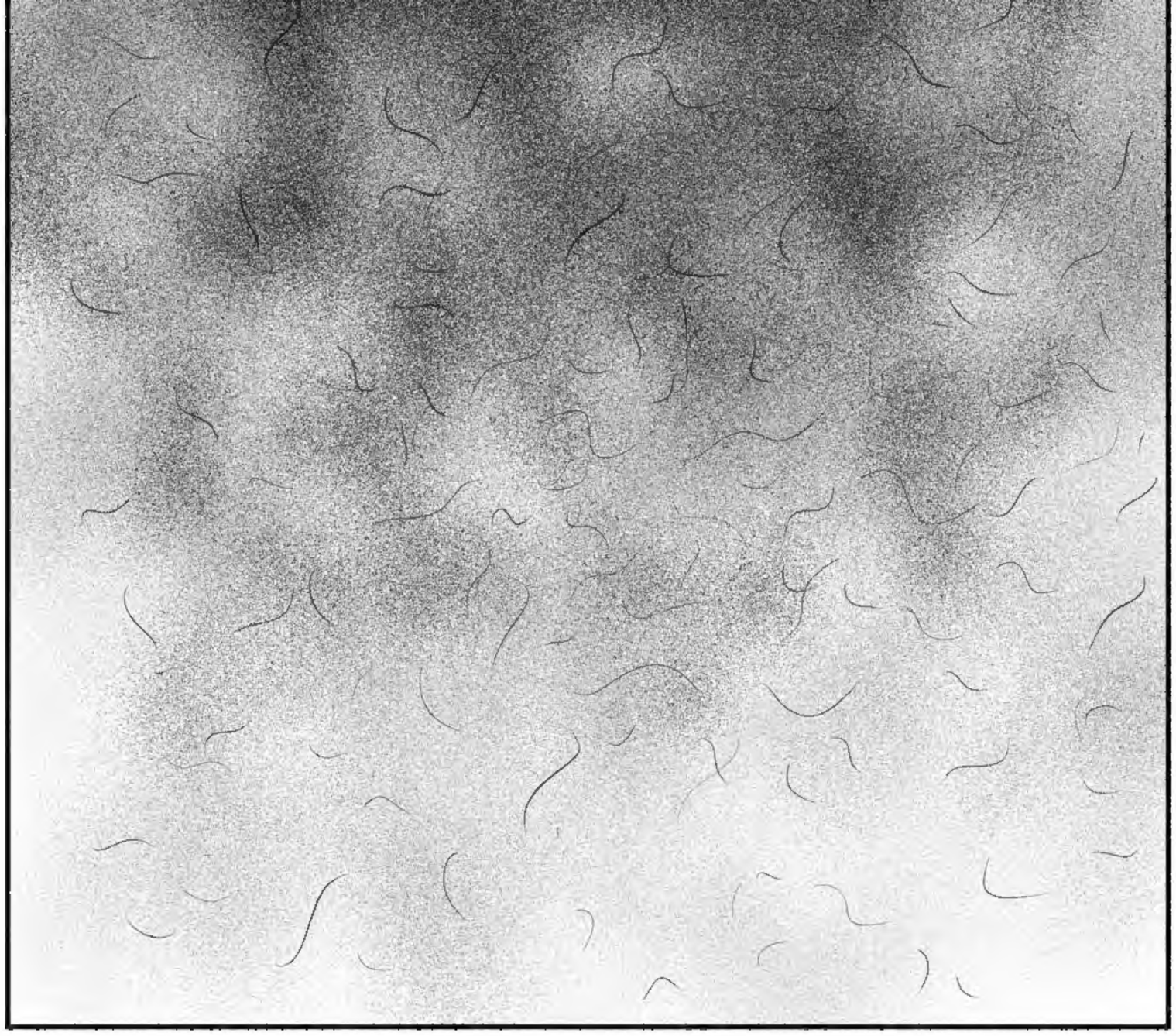

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Chapter 1

Angel Hair

MOUNT SENGOKU

?

AND IT'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL GOLD COLOR, EVEN THOUGH VOLCANIC HAIR IS BLACK IN JAPAN.

PLUS VOLCANIC HAIR IS MADE FROM STRANDS OF LAVA, SO IT'S ACTUALLY REALLY HARD. BUT THIS JUST BENDS IN MY HAND.

BUT MOUNT SENGOKU ERUPTED DECADES AGO.

WHAT'S THIS? VOLCANIC HAIR?

I'M PRETTY SURE IT HASN'T BEEN ACTIVE RECENTLY...

FWOO

SO THEN MAYBE... THIS IS "ANGEL HAIR"?

VOLCANIC HAIR DOESN'T JUST DISAPPEAR.

HUH ?!

IT MELTED!

BUT THE NATURE OF ANGEL HAIR IS STILL A MYSTERY.

SOME PEOPLE SAY IT'S SPIDER SILK OR THAT IT COMES FROM UFOS.

?

...

...TOLD US THAT YOU WOULD COME.

THE DIVINE AMAGAMI, THE HEAVENLY HAIR...

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

WHAT?

...

AND WHERE DO YOU INTEND TO GO?

I SHOULD BE GOING...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

MISS KYOKO BYAKUYA.

WHAT?!

A-ACTUALLY, WHERE WAS I GOING ANYWAY?

I JUST... I FEEL LIKE I WAS DRAWN TO THE MOUNTAIN SOMEHOW...

MY NAME IS AIZAWA.

LET ME INTRO-DUCE MYSELF.

THE DIVINE AMAGAMI BROUGHT YOU HERE.

YOU WILL COME TO OUR VILLAGE.

HOW DID YOU...

...

I'LL SHOW YOU THE WAY.

IT'S CALLED KIYOKAMI.

THIS IS OUR VILLAGE.

I CAN FEEL THIS STRANGE POWER PULLING ME IN...

WHAT IS GOING ON?

IT'S SHINING WITH GOLDEN LIGHT.

?!

YES, WE CALL IT AMAGAMI, THE HEAVENLY HAIR.

OH, THE VILLAGE IS BLANKETED IN THAT STRANGE FIBER. THAT'S WHY.

A SIGN THAT GOD TRULY LOVES THE VILLAGE OF KIYOKAMI.

BUT IT LINGERS HERE.

ELSEWHERE, AMAGAMI QUICKLY VANISHES.

NOW.

I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR LODGINGS.

BUT I'D ASK THAT YOU COME TO THE VILLAGE HALL TOMORROW.

I'LL BE ON MY WAY NOW.

THIS IS THE INN. A BIT ON THE OLD SIDE, BUT...

...PLEASE DO MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.

INN KATSUKIYA

PERHAPS YOU'D ENJOY A DIP IN THE HOT SPRINGS BATH.

YOU MUST BE TIRED AFTER YOUR LONG JOURNEY, MISS BYAKUYA.

I WONDER WHAT *THAT* MEANT.

AND HE SAID HE WAS WAITING FOR ME.

IT WAS LIKE HE COULD READ MY MIND.

HE EVEN KNEW MY NAME.

MR. AIZAWA IS QUITE STRANGE, HM?

THE AMAGAMI STICKS TO US.

LOOK. CAN YOU SEE IT?

THANKS TO THE DIVINE AMAGAMI.

THAT POWER'S NOT LIMITED TO MR. AIZAWA. ALL THE VILLAGERS HAVE IT.

WITH MY EYES CLOSED TIGHTLY LIKE THIS, I'M ABLE TO FEEL THE FAR REACHES OF SPACE.

I CAN ALSO FEEL THE MINDS OF THE OTHER VILLAGERS.

...WE GAIN A MYSTE-RIOUS POWER.

BECAUSE OF THIS CONNEC-TION ...

POWER ?

IT STICKS TO YOU?

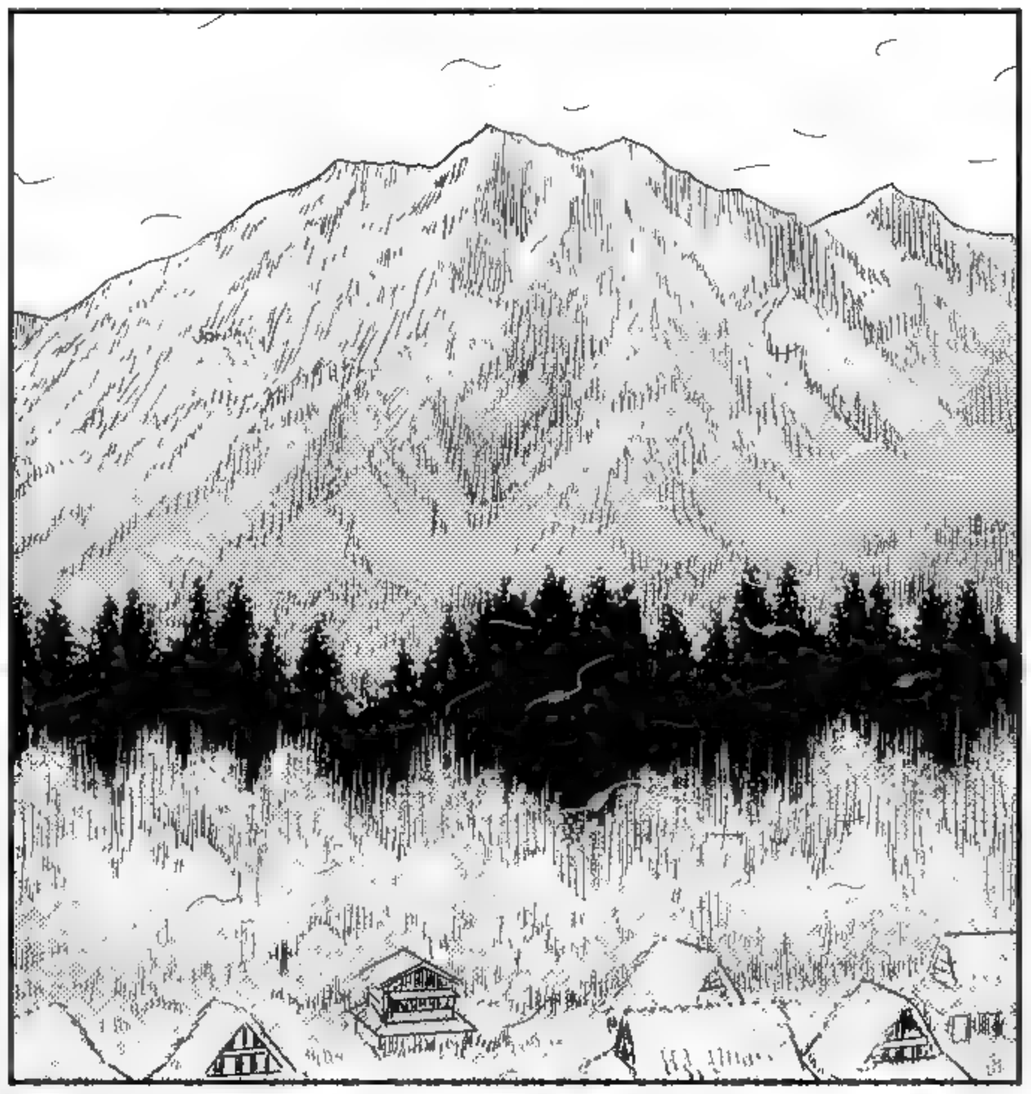
...

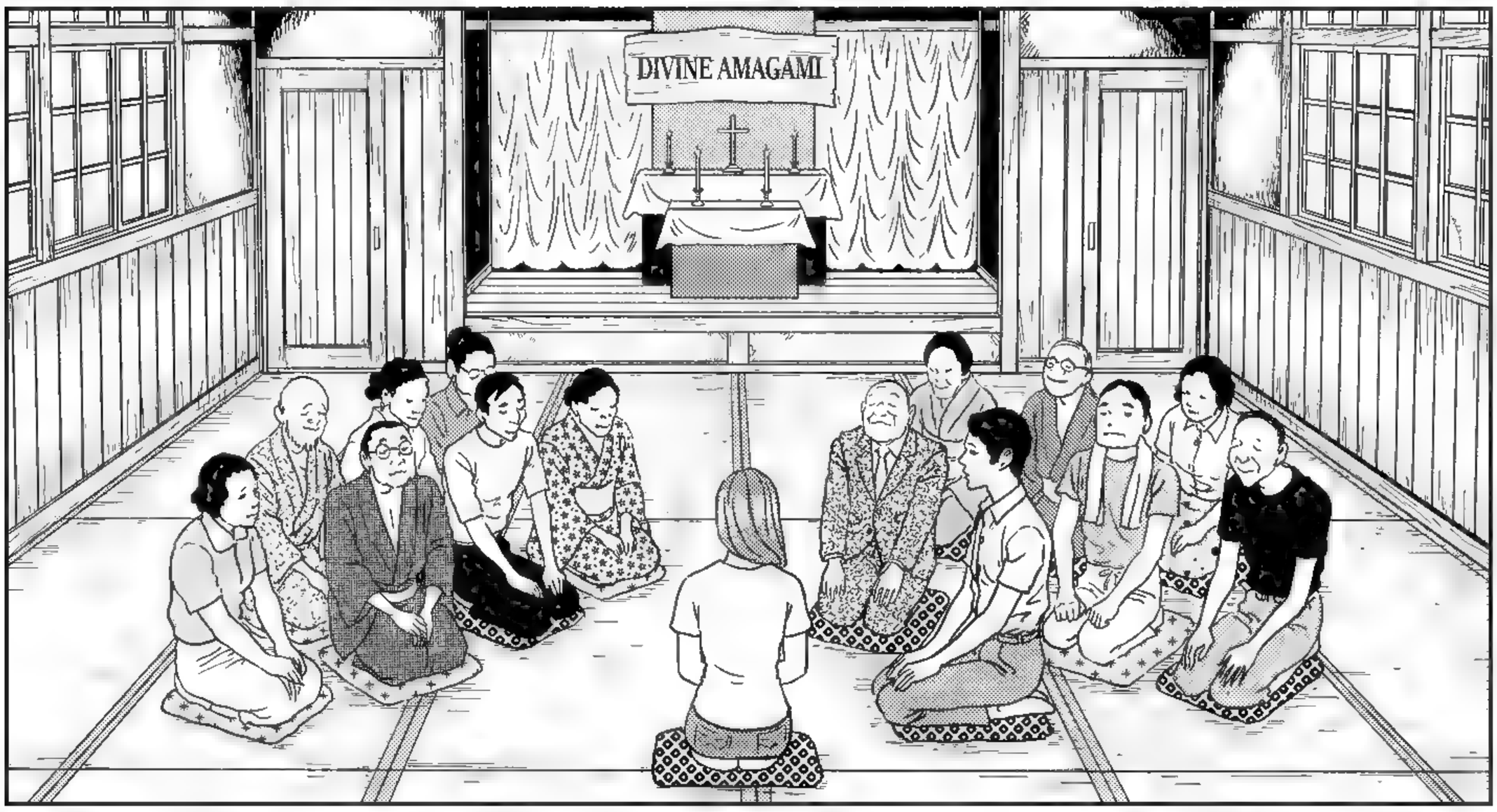
...THE BLISS IT GIVES ME.

I CANNOT EXPRESS IN WORDS...

UFOS ?!

KIYOKAMI VILLAGE HALL




DIVINE AMAGAMI

WE HAVE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

DIVINE AMAGAMI

THERE'S A REASON WHY GOD LOVES KIYOKAMI.

AND OUR VILLAGE IS BELOVED BY GOD.

YOU WERE CHOSEN BY GOD.

...THE PEOPLE OF THIS VILLAGE SHELTERED THE FOREIGN MISSIONARY MIGUEL FROM PERSECUTION.

LONG AGO, DURING THE EDO ERA WHEN CHRISTIANITY WAS PROHIBITED ...

AMAGAMI HAS DANCED DOWN FROM THE VOLCANO EVER SINCE.

THIS VILLAGE IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE IT STAYS ON THE GROUND.

WE BELIEVE THAT AMAGAMI IS IN FACT THE MISSIONARY MIGUEL'S BEAUTIFUL HAIR.

BUT THE SHOGUNATE EVENTUALLY CAPTURED MIGUEL...

...AND SEN-TENCED HIM TO DEATH.

ALONG WITH THE VILLAGERS WHO HAD PROTECTED HIM, HE WAS THROWN INTO THE MOUTH OF MOUNT SENGOKU.

BUT FOR THOSE OF US WHO POSSESS THE AMAGAMI, MIGUEL HIMSELF IS THE OBJECT OF OUR DEVOTION.

MIGUEL THE MARTYR BELIEVED IN JESUS CHRIST.

AND SO WE CAME TO WORSHIP AMAGAMI.

THIS HAIR BROUGHT US HAPPINESS.

THERE WERE RUMORS IT WAS A GOOD SIGN.

AND THEN THE DIVINE AMAGAMI NOTIFIED ME THAT YOU WERE COMING TO THE VILLAGE.

FOR SOME REASON, THERE HAS BEEN SO MUCH OF THIS HEAVENLY HAIR RECENTLY THAT IT COLORS THE VILLAGE GOLD.

WE WERE UNSURE WHAT TO THINK OF THIS CHANGE.

BUT ...

OH.

YOU MUST BE QUITE SPECIAL, DESTINED TO BRING HAPPINESS TO US.

DIVINE AMAGAMI

I WAS GOING TO LEAVE TODAY.

AND I DON'T THINK I HAVE ANY TIES TO THIS VILLAGE.

I'M NO ONE SPECIAL.

BUT...

PLEASE STAY, TAKE YOUR TIME.

HE'S RIGHT.

MISS BYAKUYA. PLEASE DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS.

PLEASE, AT LEAST JOIN US FOR THAT.

...WE'RE HAVING OUR REGULAR VIEWING OF THE NIGHT SKY.

OH YES, TONIGHT IN THE VILLAGE PLAZA...

THE SKY IS LOVELY, YES?

MISS BYAKUYA... DO YOU KNOW WHY LIFE EXISTS?

WHEN WE LOOK UP AT THE NIGHT SKY, WE CONSIDER THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE AND THE MEANING BEHIND THE EXISTENCE OF LIFE.

...THEY ARE NECESSARY TO LIVE, BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE NECESSARY TO FEEL THE UNIVERSE.

THE FIVE SENSES WE HAVE IN OUR BODIES, THESE "SENSORS," THEY EXIST NOT BECAUSE...

IN ORDER TO FEEL THE UNIVERSE.

...

WE NEED THE POWER OF THE AMAGAMI...

...BECAUSE WE HAVE A PURPOSE.

...AND AMAGAMI HAS THE POWER TO AMPLIFY THESE SENSORS.

LIFE EXISTS TO SENSE THE UNIVERSE...

...OUT THERE SOMEWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE.

TO FEEL LORD MIGUEL...

YES. THE TRUTH IS...

AMAGAMI COMES OUT OF THE VOLCANO NOW, RIGHT?

SO WHY LOOK TO THE UNIVERSE?

WASN'T LORD MIGUEL MARTYRED ON MOUNT SENGOKU?

OUT THERE SOME-WHERE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BUT HE LEFT THE BLESSED AMAGAMI FOR US.

HE WAS ORIGINALLY FROM THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE, AFTER ALL.

LORD MIGUEL JOURNEYED INTO SPACE AT THE END OF THE EDO ERA.

SEE? LOOK THERE!

AH!

A-AMAZING! MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER BEFORE!

THIS TOO IS THE WILL OF THE AMAGAMI!

IT WILL FALL SOON.

TAKE A LOOK.

UFOS ...?

THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPOR-TUNITY.

EVERYONE, FOCUS YOUR MINDS.

MISS BYAKUYA... MISS BYAKUYA ...

IS EVERY-ONE ELSE HERE?

WE CAN FEEL THE UNIVERSE IN A WAY WE'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE!

SO THAT WE MIGHT SENSE LORD MIGUEL!

WHAT'S THAT SHADOW ?!

IT'S HIM..

IT HAS TO BE HIM

LORD MIGUEL!

N-NO... THAT'S NOT LORD MIGUEL!

LOOK! LOOK AT THAT JET-BLACK HAIR!

THE INKY BLACK HAIR IS COVERING US...

AAH!

THE BLACK HAIR!

LAST NIGHT AT AROUND 9 P.M., MOUNT SENGOKU STIRRED TO LIFE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 60 YEARS.

TOWNS IN THE AREA SHOULD BE ALERT FOR FURTHER ERUPTIONS.

THIS IS WHERE KIYOKAWI WAS, THE VILLAGE DESTROYED IN THE LAST ERUPTION 60 YEARS AGO.

THIS IS WHERE THE PYROCLASTIC FLOW ENDS.

AH! WHAT'S THAT?

LAVA? NO... IT LOOKS LIKE A MASS OF FIBERS.

AND IT'S SHINING WITH A GOLDEN LIGHT!

消

消

消防

IT'S MELTING?!

MOOM

AH!

BRRRRRR

BRRRRRR

BLRD

BLRD

SHLP

SHLP

WHAT ?!

SHE'S ALIVE!

IT'S A PERSON! THERE'S SOME-ONE IN THERE!

RESCUE GROUP NO. 3

KAMINOYU FIRE DEPT

WHAT BEAUTIFUL GOLDEN HAIR...

LOOK ...

AND WHAT EXACTLY WAS IT THAT THE VILLAGERS SAW IN THE FARTHEST REACHES OF SPACE?

HAD KYOKO BYAKUYA WANDERED INTO THE KIYOKAAN OF 60 YEARS EARLIER? OR HAD SHE SEEN A VISION OF THE VILLAGE?

ALL OF IT REMAINED A MYSTERY.

THIS, ALONG WITH THE TRUTH OF THE GOLDEN COCOON THAT MELTED AWAY INTO NOTHING...

Chapter 1 / END

Chapter 2: Akashic Records

KRRRR

...

A CLOUD

NO... MAYBE SMOKE FROM A FOREST FIRE?

Chapter 2

Akashic Records

BYE.

YES... THANK YOU.

I CAN HAVE IT TO YOU BY THE END OF NEXT WEEK.

YES. I FINISHED THE INTERVIEWS, SO I'LL GET STARTED ON THE ARTICLE.

MAYBE I WAS JUST SEEING THINGS?

NOTHING IN THE NEWS.

FOREST FIRES, FOREST FIRES...

OH, RIGHT.

I'M A NO-NAME REPORTER.

MY NAME IS WATARU TSUCHIYADO.

TSUCHI-YADO

TJZK

AAAAAH.

TAK TAK TAK

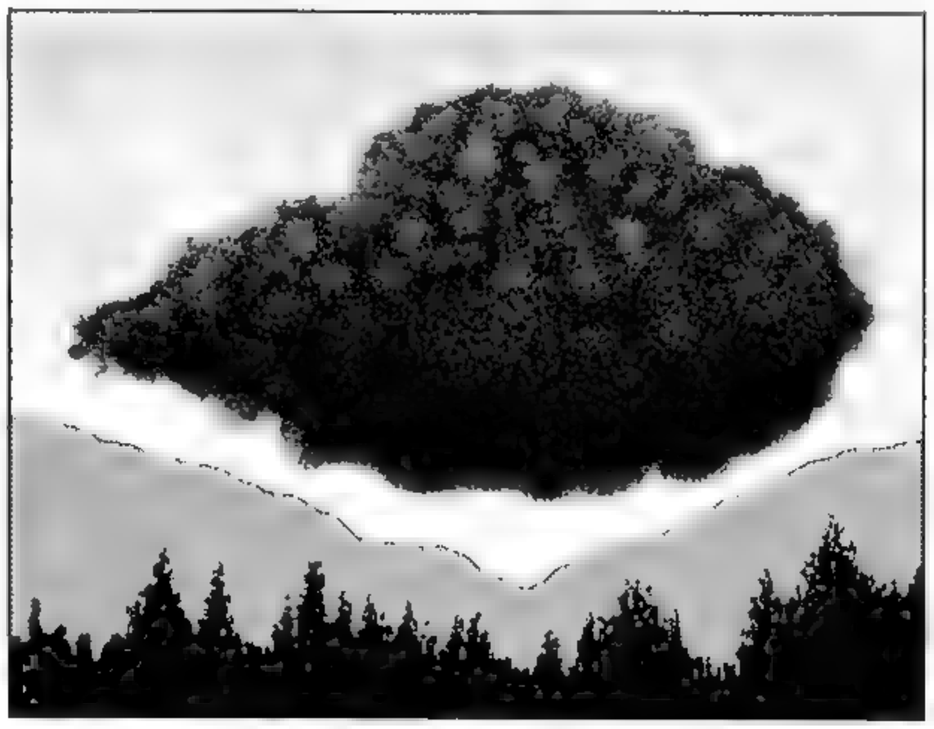
SIP

while there are few hot springs in handed down in the area th[illegible]gh is its most distinctive feature, the tempera[illegible]e reaches up to 35 drawing pe[illegible]ple's attention, and T[illegible]as beco[illegible]e a legend in the regio[illegible]gnificant damage in the disaster [illegible]eople's hearts

TAK TAK TAK

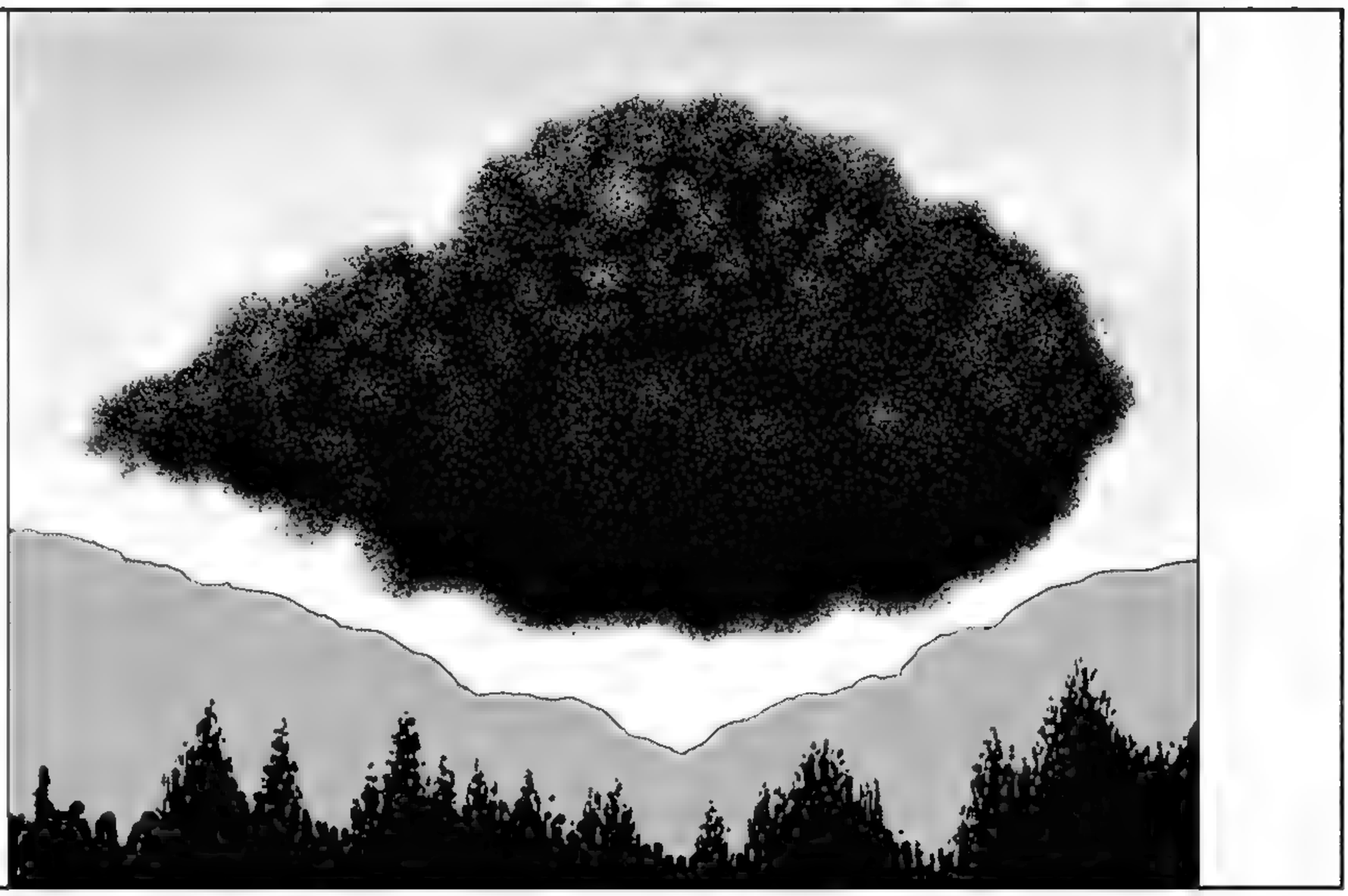
HM!

Mr. Yamadaisuki@yamanoyyaammaa · 3 hours ago
Found this weird black cloud when I was walking in the mountains the other day! No Photoshop.



KLIK

POP



Taro@suchakamechaka222·2 hou
Replying to: @yamanoyyaammaa
What is that cloud? It's totally black
Is this pic real?

Minachild@rururuyheyhe
Replying to: @yamanoyyaammaa
It's obviously CG. As if there would
this strange cloud.

Yamadaisuki@ya
und this weird bla
the mountains the

I QUICKLY CONTACTED THE ORIGINAL POSTER AND...

...FOUND OUT WHERE HE'D TAKEN THE PHOTO.

ZSH ZSH

HM ?!

I KNEW IT WAS IN THE MOUNTAINS, BUT IT'S FARTHER IN THAN I THOUGHT.

I'M PRETTY SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT DIRECTION. IT'S BASICALLY THE SAME PLACE I SAW FROM THE PLANE.

ZSH ZSH ZSH

ZSH

ZSH ZSH

ZSH

ZSH

THAT'S ...

AH!

ZSH ZSH ZSH

TODO

WHIZ

WHIZ

WAIT!

HEY!

THUD

OOF!

AH!

KYOKO BYAKUYA ?!

IS THAT... ACTUALLY ...

OUCH !

THERE WAS ALL THAT MEDIA ATTENTION, AND THEN SHE VANISHED.

KYOKO BYAKUYA, THE MYSTERIOUS SURVIVOR OF THE MOUNT SENGOKU ERUPTION LAST YEAR.

IF THAT'S THE REAL KYOKO BYAKUYA, THIS IS A SERIOUS SCOOP.

THAT SHINING HAIR...

!

WAIT UP!

HEY!

GRAB

WHAT THE— ?!

HUH ?!

?!

THK THK

AH!

LET GO!

WHO ARE YOU?!

AH!

MARCH

MARCH

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?!

H-HEY!

HM?

BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS IT?

THE BLACK CLOUD... SO IT REALLY DOES EXIST.

SO THAT SHE CAN'T ESCAPE AGAIN.

TIE MS. BYAKUYA UP MORE TIGHTLY THIS TIME.

YES, MASTER!

WHO ARE ALL OF YOU?!

WHO ARE YOU?

...

MASTER, WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THIS MAN?

WE ARE THE ONLY REAL SEEKERS OF UNIVERSAL TRUTH.

MY NAME IS KAGERO AIDO, LEADER OF INDIGO SHADOW, A SUPRA-MYSTICISM GROUP.

MEDITA-TION!

I WILL NOW TELL YOU WHO YOU ARE TO PROVE THAT OUR POWER IS REAL.

...

YOU ARE A NO-NAME REPORT-ER.

YOUR NAME IS WATARU TSUCHI-YADO.

FROM THE NEWS, YOU KNEW SHE WAS THE MYSTERIOUS SURVIVOR OF THE MOUNT SENGOKU ERUPTION.

THE WORLD LOST TRACK OF HER WHEREABOUTS... YOU THOUGHT, "IF I GET A SCOOP ON HER, I'LL BE FAMOUS."

YOU CAME TO THE MOUNTAIN AFTER SEEING A PHOTO OF A BLACK CLOUD ONLINE.

AND THEN YOU HAPPENED TO COME ACROSS KYOKO BYAKUYA.

I SEE EVERY-THING.

NO NEED TO PUT ON AIRS, MR. TSUCHI-YADO.

I WASN'T THINKING THAT THE SCOOP WOULD MAKE ME FAMOUS.

SO YOU CHASED AFTER HER AND WE CAUGHT YOU.

...
RECORDS
?

AKASHIC
...

BECAUSE I AM ACCESSING THE AKASHIC RECORDS.

WHY CAN I SEE INTO YOUR MIND?

IT'S SAID TO EXIST SOMEWHERE, BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHERE.

A LIBRARY OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE, YOU MIGHT SAY.

THE AKASHIC RECORDS DOCUMENT ALL INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIVERSE — PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

THE GOD OFF IN THE DISTANT BLACK OF SPACE TOLD ME...

"MEDITATE VIA THE MEDIUM OF KYOKO BYAKUYA."

I TOO SEARCHED FOR MANY YEARS, BUT COULD NOT FIND IT.

HOWEVER, ON THE VERY DAY MOUNT SENGOKU ERUPTED...

...GOD GRANTED ME ENLIGHTEN-MENT.

IN THE ERUPTION, SHE GAINED THE SUPER-NATURAL POWER OF...

...CLAIR-VOYANCE.

WE ABDUCTED HER AND BEGAN TO MEDITATE THROUGH HER IN THIS QUIET VALLEY.

IT WAS ACTUALLY A SURPRISING SENSATION... I'D NEVER FELT SUCH A THRILL BEFORE! I FINALLY DISCOVERED THE AKASHIC RECORDS.

ALL THAT WAS LEFT WAS TO ABSORB ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE UNIVERSE.

BUT... AFTER A TIME, SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED.

A BLACK CLOUD GREW IN THE SKY ABOVE THIS VALLEY.

THE WIND DID NOT MOVE IT. IT SIMPLY HUNG OVER THE VALLEY, GRADUALLY GROWING LARGER...

I FINALLY REALIZED IT WAS NO ORDINARY CLOUD.

IT IS THE BODY OF THE AKASHIC RECORDS!

AS WE MEDITATED THROUGH KYOKO BYAKUYA...

...WE SUMMONED THE AKASHIC RECORDS!

I NEVER DREAMED THEY WERE IN THE FORM OF A CLOUD.

A REAL CLOUD! THE DIGITAL CLOUD PALES IN COMPARISON!

YOU KNOW NOTHING.

WHAT?

BUT THE CLOUD'S GROWTH IS STILL ONLY IN THE EARLY STAGES.

WITH OUR POWER, WE WILL MAKE IT GROW INTO A SUPER-MASSIVE CLOUD ENCOMPASSING ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE UNIVERSE.

...WILL HAVE EVIL EFFECTS.

WHAT YOU'RE DOING...

MISFORTUNE WILL BEFALL YOU.

YOU MUST STOP.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, BYAKUYA? YOUR MIND ALONE I CANNOT READ.

MOST LIKELY BECAUSE YOU ARE THE MEDIUM...

SUMMON THE AKASHIC RECORDS WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND SOUL!

EVERYONE, LISTEN CLOSELY! TIME FOR FOCUSED MEDITATION!

YOU SPEAK AS THOUGH YOU KNOW ANYTHING. I'LL SHUT THAT MOUTH OF YOURS.

MEDITATION!

FLASH

AAH!

UNNH ...

RRRRRRRRR

KRRRRRRR

AAAAH
!

...AND IN AN INSTANT, THE FABRIC OF THE TENT WAS ABLAZE.

WHOOSH

THE INCREDIBLE ENERGY BECAME A BALL OF FLAMES...

!

I'M FREE!

DASH

KACHAK

MS. BYAKUYA! ARE YOU OKAY?!

I'LL CUT YOU DOWN!

?!

TMP

WHAT ?!

IT'S COMING DOWN.

ITS NATURE HAS CHANGED.

THE CLOUD, IT'S —!

SCARS

AAAH!

DASH

CRACK

C'MON !

SNAP

SNAP

KAGARIC

WHAM

AH!

I HAVE NO MEMORY OF ANYTHING ALONG THE WAY.

I FOLLOWED KYOKO BYAKUYA ALMOST IN A TRANCE.

CRACK

DASH

Y-YOU... KNOW THIS CAVE QUITE WELL.

HAVE YOU BEEN INSIDE IT BEFORE?

NO.

WHERE WERE WE? WAS I DEAD?

WHEN I CAME TO, WE WERE WALKING IN A DARK PASSAGE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S A CAVE HERE...

BUT IT SEEMED TO BE AN UNDER-GROUND CAVE.

THE EXIT!

HOW LONG DID WE WALK?

IT'S COVERING THE ENTIRE AREA.

A DOZEN BODIES THOUGHT TO BE THE INDIGO SHADOW GROUP WERE FOUND IN THE RUINS.

THE SEDIMENT OF THE AKASHIC RECORDS SOON DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE.

WILL IT BE LIKE THIS FOREVER NOW?!

HEY!

AND KYOKO BYAKUYA DISAPPEARED ONCE MORE.

YOU LISTEN TO BEAUTIFUL SOUNDS.

YOU TOUCH SOMETHING SMOOTH.

YOU SMELL THE AIR.

YOU'RE VERY RELAXED.

AND YOU FLY THROUGH THE SKY.

DIVE INTO THE OCEAN.

YOUR SENSES REACH FAR OFF INTO THE DISTANCE...

LATELY, I'VE BEEN HEARING A STRANGE VOICE WHENEVER I START TO DROP OFF.

AH.

FWP

MAYBE I'M JUST TIRED...

Chapter 3

Hypnotherapy

SHE MADE A DEEP IMPRESSION ON ME WITH HER SHINING GOLDEN HAIR, AND THEN DISAPPEARED ONCE MORE.

IN THE MOUNTAINS OF GUNMA PREFECTURE, I ENCOUNTERED THE MISSING KYOKO BYAKUYA.

MY NAME IS WATARU TSUCHI-YADO.

I'M A NO-NAME REPORTER.

IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT A MYSTERIOUS GOLDEN COCOON PROTECTED HER IN THE LAVA FLOW, THAT SHE GREW UP IN AN ORPHANAGE, THAT SHE HAS NO FAMILY. ON TOP OF THIS...

I'M LOOKING INTO HER NOW.

...SOME CRITICAL INFORMATION FROM ONE OF THE HOSPITAL STAFF.

BUT EVEN-TUALLY, I SUCCEEDED IN DRAWING OUT...

AT FIRST, I DIDN'T GET ANY ACCOUNTS THAT HINTED AT HER HISTORY OR WHERE-ABOUTS.

...I SPOKE DIRECTLY WITH THE FIREFIGHTERS AND HOSPITAL PERSONNEL WHO RESCUED HER.

SO SHE WAS SENT TO A PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR.

WHEN SHE WAS RESCUED, KYOKO BYAKUYA HAD AMNESIA.

I GUESS I CAN TALK TO YOU.

FINE, ALREADY, IF IT'LL GET YOU OFF MY BACK.

COULD YOU TELL ME THIS PROFESSOR'S NAME?

I THOUGHT SHE'D RECOVER WITH TREATMENT THERE. I WAS SURPRISED MYSELF TO HEAR SHE'D GONE MISSING.

TO KEEP HER FROM THE MEDIA, HE ADMITTED HER UNDER UTMOST SECRECY TO A COUNTRY PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL HIS FATHER RUNS.

WHEN I GOT IN TOUCH WITH HOKUNAN UNIVERSITY, I FOUND OUT THAT PROFESSOR KURODERA WAS ON A LONG-TERM LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

SO I QUICKLY SET OUT FOR U CITY.

GO AND TALK TO THEM IF YOU WANT, BUT DON'T TELL ANYONE I TOLD YOU.

PROFESSOR KURODERA OF HOKUNAN UNIVERSITY. HIS FATHER OPERATES OUT OF U CITY.

OF COURSE NOT.

U CITY

KURODERA CLINIC

...

WHAT?

I DON'T TALK TO THE MEDIA. PLEASE LEAVE.

Wataru Tsuchiyado

Writer

A RE-PORTER ?

DR. KURODERA, PLEASE ...

I MET KYOKO BYAKUYA.

Wataru Tsuchiyado

WE *DID* TREAT HER HERE.

...RIGHT BEFORE MERCILESS REALITY COMES FLOODING BACK TO YOU.

...SHE APPEARED TO BE IN THAT STATE OF INNOCENCE OF THE INSTANT A PERSON WAKES UP...

OR RATHER, I FELT THAT...

SHE HAD INDEED LOST HER MEMORY WHEN SHE WAS BROUGHT IN.

...THAT MOMENT OF BLISS.

I GOT THE IMPRES-SION THAT SHE WAS STILL IN...

I'D LIKE YOUR HELP IN TREATING HER.

FATHER, THIS IS KYOKO BYAKUYA. SHE'S A NEW PATIENT.

NOW, COME INSIDE, KYOKO.

I GOT SPECIAL PERMIS-SION.

WHAT ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY, YUKIO?

THAT HAIR ...

MM...

HER HAIR IS TRULY BEAUTIFUL.

YES, FATHER.

MUST BE SOME KIND OF STRANGE CONNECTION THAT A SURVIVOR...

...FROM THERE WOULD END UP HERE.

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE FROM, RIGHT?

SHE WAS RESCUED FROM THE FOOT OF MOUNT SENGOKU.

AROUND WHERE KIYOKAMI WAS 60 YEARS AGO.

YOU'RE FROM KIYOKAMI, DR. KURODERA ?!

WHAT?

...

...THE GOLDEN HAIR THAT RAINED FROM THE SKY. IT POURED DOWN ONTO THE VILLAGE.

WE BELIEVED IN THE AMAGAMI...

I HAD LEFT THE VILLAGE A MONTH BEFORE THAT. MY FAMILY, MY RELATIVES, THEY ALL DIED.

KIYOKAMI WAS DESTROYED IN AN ERUPTION 60 YEARS AGO.

SOME SAID THEY COULD SEE THE FAR REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE THANKS TO THE AMAGAMI.

THEY COULD UNDER-STAND EACH OTHER WITHOUT WORDS.

VILLAGERS WITH AMAGAMI HAD STRANGELY HEIGHTENED PERCEP-TIONS.

IT WOULD STICK TO OUR HEADS.

...

OH!

DID ANY AMAGAMI STICK TO YOU, DR. KURODERA?

WHAT A STRANGE STORY.

SO KYOKO'S HAIR IS...
OH! HANG ON THEN!
...

FATHER, I'D LIKE TO FOCUS ON HYPNOTHERAPY TO CALL HER MEMORIES BACK.

KYOKO, YOU ARE...

...VERY RELAXED.

AND CLOSE YOUR EYES. YOUR EYELIDS ARE VERY HEAVY.

ALL THE TENSION IS LEAVING YOUR BODY. OUT THROUGH YOUR FEET, YOUR HANDS.

YES. BREATHE IN SLOWLY... AND BREATHE OUT.

BREATHE IN, BREATHE OUT.

HE ASKED HER ALL KINDS OF THINGS TO TRY TO BRING BACK HER MEMORY.

GRADU-ALLY.

IT WAS ABOUT AN HOUR INTO THE SESSION WHEN...

SLOWLY ...

GRAB

JUST CALM DOWN.

WHAT'S WRONG, KYOKO?

AAAAH!

SHAKU SHAKU SHAKE

KYOKO, CALM DOWN.

ｱｽﾀﾛｳ ｱｽﾀﾛｳ ｱｽﾀﾛｳ ｱｽﾀﾛｳ

EEE!

EEEEEEEEEEEE!!

I SENSED THEN THAT HER TIME OF BLISS HAD ENDED.

KYOKO!

YOU HAVE TO STOP!

SHE'S BEING PULLED BACK INTO REALITY.

WHAT ?!

SHE'S IN A VERY HYPER-SENSITIVE STATE.

HELP ME!

F-FATHER! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

THERE MUST BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THOSE SENSES AND THE AMAGAMI!

MOST LIKELY, THE HYPNOSIS IS BRING-ING BACK HER MEMORY...

...AND HER HYPER-SENSITIVITY WITH IT.

HER HEIGHT-ENED SENSES HAVE RE-AWAKENED.

AMAGAMI ?!

EEEEEE!

PLANETS ARE VANISHING! SO MANY OF THEM!

?!

WWWAIT!!

YUKIO, YOU HAVE TO STOP THE HYPNOTHERAPY. ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS WATCH OVER HER!

ZOOOOM!

AH! THE CREATURES ON THIS PLANET EVAPORATED WITH IT!

AH! THAT PLANET EXPLODED!

HER MIND MUST BE TER-RIFYINGLY SENSITIVE.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE WITH SO MUCH AMAGAMI.

WHAT ?!

MOST LIKELY, SHE'S SEEING THINGS THAT ARE ACTUALLY HAPPENING IN THE DISTANT UNIVERSE.

SHE'S DELIRIOUS. SHE'S DREAMING.

NO. SHE'S NOT.

SHE REALLY IS WITNESSING THE AWFUL SIGHT OF A PLANET AND ALL THE LIFE ON IT DESTROYED... AND NOT JUST THAT.

ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE UNIVERSE IS LIKELY POURING INTO HER BRAIN.

I TOLD MY SON ABOUT THE AMAGAMI.

FATHER, THAT'S ...

WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS AMAGAMI?

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT SHE HAD REACHED HER PHYSICAL LIMIT...

WE TRIED EVERYTHING, BUT MS. BYAKUYA REMAINED IN THAT EXCITED STATE.

FATHER! KYOKO'S CALMED DOWN AGAIN.

KURODERA CLINIC

FOUND WHAT?

SHE FINALLY FOUND IT.

THAT'S LIKELY NOT IT.

NO...

WHAT ?

LOOKS LIKE THE MEDS ARE FINALLY WORKING.

...THE PSYCHIC EYE...

THE ART OF CLOS-ING...

A WAY TO SHUT OFF THE INFORMATION POURING IN.

THE ART OF CLOSING THE SO-CALLED PSYCHIC EYE.

I THINK WE SHOULD RESUME THE HYPNOTHERAPY.

PERHAPS IT'S TAKING EVERYTHING SHE HAS TO SHUT OFF HER SENSES, AND SHE HAS NOTHING LEFT FOR COMMUNICATION.

...WE WERE STILL UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH HER.

ALTHOUGH SHE HAD CALMED DOWN...

SO YUKIO DECIDED TO POSTPONE HIS RETURN TO THE UNIVERSITY ...

...AND FOCUS ON HER TREAT-MENT.

IF SHE'S CLOSED THIS "PSYCHIC EYE," AS YOU PUT IT, WE MIGHT SEE SOME RESULTS NOW.

HMM.

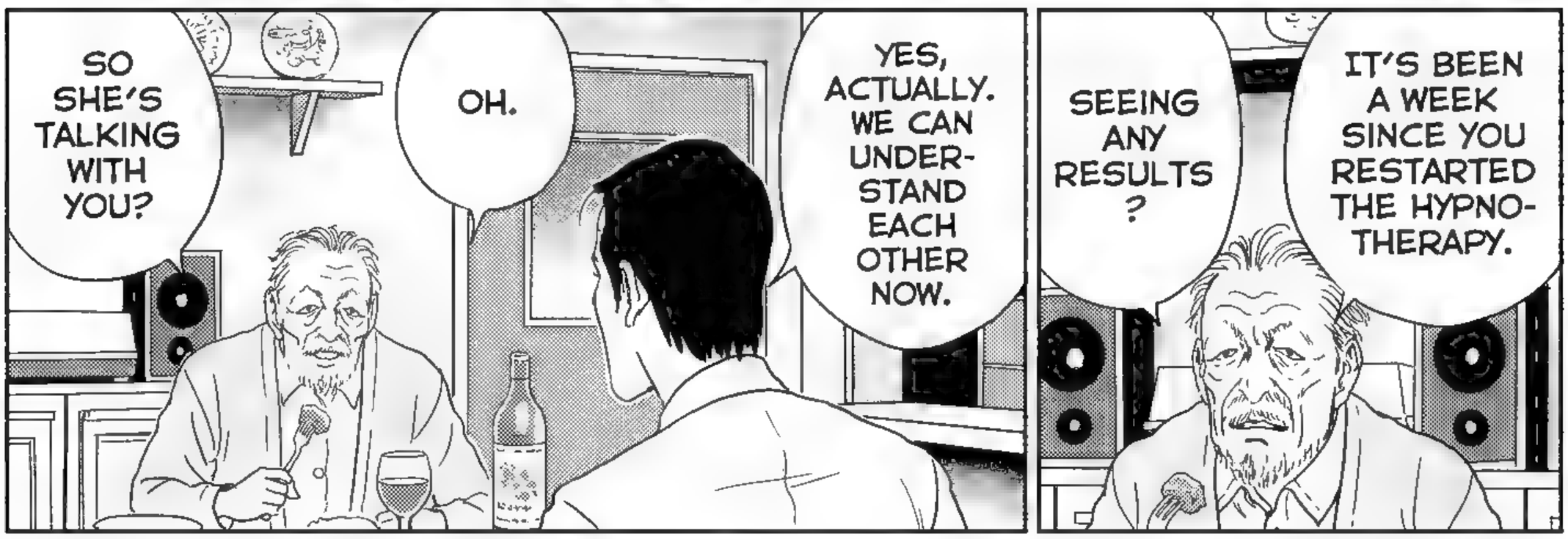
FWOO

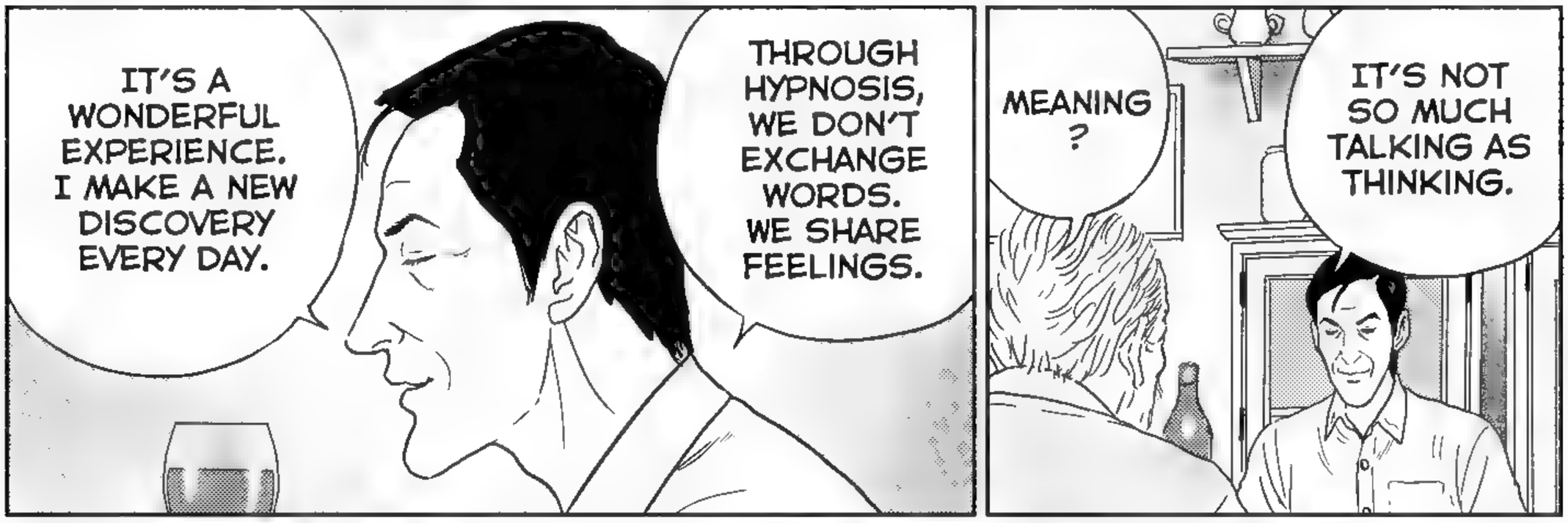
HAHA

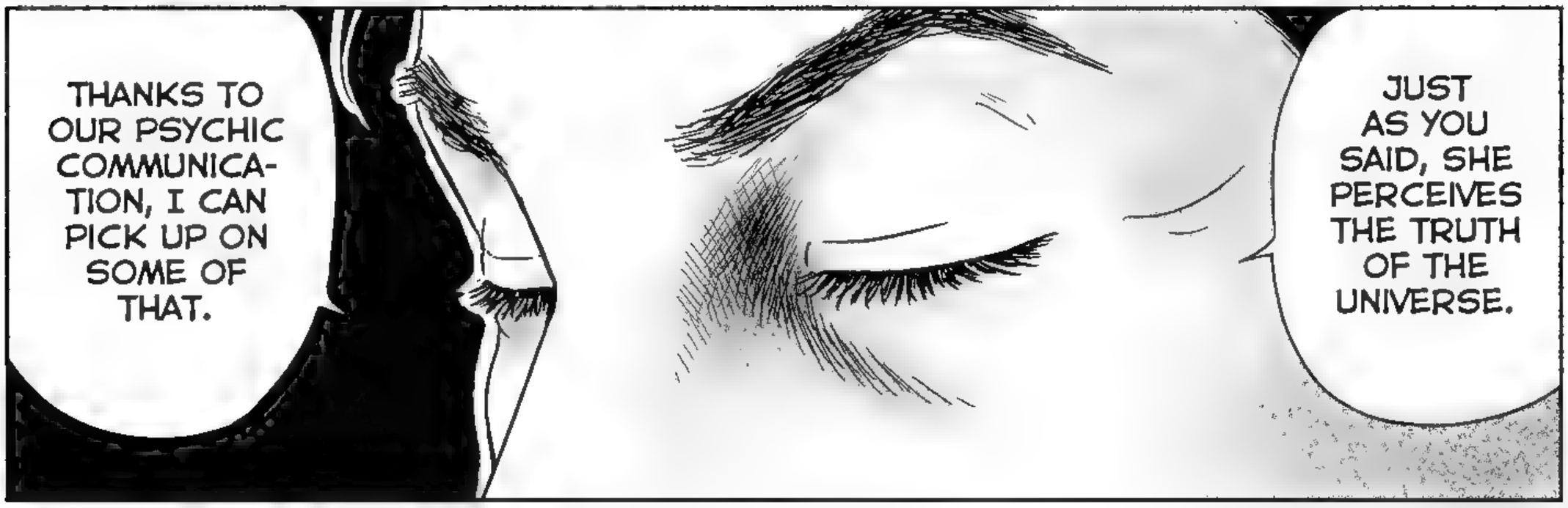
IF YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING, THEN SLOWLY BREATHE OUT... AND BREATHE IN.

KYOKO, CAN YOU HEAR ME? YOU ARE NOW VERY RELAXED.

KUROSAWA CLINIC


SO SHE'S TALKING WITH YOU?
OH.
YES, ACTUALLY. WE CAN UNDER-STAND EACH OTHER NOW.
SEEING ANY RESULTS ?
IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE YOU RESTARTED THE HYPNO-THERAPY.


IT'S A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE. I MAKE A NEW DISCOVERY EVERY DAY.
THROUGH HYPNOSIS, WE DON'T EXCHANGE WORDS. WE SHARE FEELINGS.
MEANING ?
IT'S NOT SO MUCH TALKING AS THINKING.


THANKS TO OUR PSYCHIC COMMUNICA-TION, I CAN PICK UP ON SOME OF THAT.
JUST AS YOU SAID, SHE PERCEIVES THE TRUTH OF THE UNIVERSE.

OR WHAT THE MEANING OF LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE IS?

DO YOU KNOW, FATHER, WHAT THE UNIVERSE IS?

I'VE NO IDEA.

WELL ...

SO I'VE FINALLY...

... LEARNED THE TRUTH OF THE UNIVERSE AND LIFE IN IT.

NO MATTER HOW GREAT THE WORK, IF THERE'S NO ONE TO APPRECIATE IT, THEN IT BASICALLY DOESN'T EXIST.

WE MUST VIEW THE UNIVERSE, APPRECIATE IT, SATE OURSELVES ON IT.

THE UNIVERSE IS THE ULTIMATE WORK OF ART, MADE BY THE CREATOR.

AND THE LIFE IN IT IS THE AUDIENCE.

I REALIZED THAT MY SON'S TREATMENT WAS MOVING IN A STRANGE DIRECTION.

THAT IS THE SOLE PURPOSE OF LIFE!

THAT IS—

...SHE WAS ABDUCTED.

RIGHT AFTER THAT...

MY SON WAS BEING SWALLOWED UP BY KYOKO BYAKUYA.

YOU CAN'T TREAT A PATIENT BY CONNECTING WITH THEM SUBCONSCIOUSLY.

AT ANY RATE...MY SON YUKIO LOST HER.

AND HE STARTED TO SLIDE INTO MADNESS.

YES, SHE WAS TAKEN BY A CULT.

A CULT, WAS IT...?

AAH, KYOKO!

WHERE ARE YOU?!

KYOKO BYAKUYA!

AAAH... KYOKO.

THE BE-WITCHING SCENT OF YOUR SKIN.

ENCHANT-ING SIGHS...

YOUR LOVELY VOICE...

YOUR BEAUTIFUL HAIR... FACE... FIGURE...

MY SENSES EXIST ONLY TO FEEL HER.

THE SWEET TASTE FROM YOUR NECK TO YOUR LIPS...

THE SMOOTH-NESS OF IT.

SHE... SHE HERSELF IS THE UNIVERSE!

YES... WHY DIDN'T I SEE IT BEFORE?

HOW EXACTLY WERE YOU TREATING HER...

YUKIO ...

AND I AM THIS UNIVERSE'S GREATEST ADMIRER!

ALL LIFE IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE SHOULD GAZE UPON KYOKO BYAKUYA!

I AM VERY RELAXED...

ALL THE STRENGTH IS LEAVING MY BODY, THROUGH MY FEET, THROUGH MY HANDS.

IS THIS HOW HE WAS COMMUNICATING WITH KYOKO?

HE'S HYP-NOTIZING HIMSELF.

GRADU-ALLY... SLOWLY...

MY EYELIDS ARE GROWING HEAVY.

MY FINGERS, MY SKIN.

I SENSE HER. KYOKO BYAKUYA— THE UNIVERSE.

MY EVERY SENSE IS COMPLETELY FOCUSED ON KYOKO BYAKUYA.

MY EYES, MY EARS.

MY NOSE, MY TONGUE.

ORION IS HER SHINING EYES.

I PRAISE THE CREATOR OF THIS MASTER-WORK.

ANDROM-EDA IS HER GOLDEN HAIR.

I AM THE GREATEST ADMIRER IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE...

HM?!

MY EYES, MY EARS.

MY NOSE, MY TONGUE.

ALDEBA-RAN IS HER SWEET LIPS.

SIRIUS IS THE PALE NAPE OF HER NECK.

MAGELLAN IS HER ELEGANT BOSOM.

SOM-BRERO, HER SAINTED WOMB.

I FEEL HER.

MY EYES, MY EARS.

I FEEL HER.

MY NOSE, MY TONGUE.

ALGOL IS THE DEMON STAR.

THE DARK S-SHAPED NEBULA.

BLACK HOLE.

I FEEL HER.

I FEEL HER.

Y-
YUKIO!

COME
BACK
TO YOUR
SENSES!

BWWAW

AAAH!

SPLASH

YUKIO BECAME AN ENORMOUS NEURON CREATURE...

...AND SCATTERED INTO THE NIGHT SKY.

...HE ALREADY HAD THAT IN HIM.

HE BECAME SUCH A THING BECAUSE ...

...

...

THE AMAGAMI HAD SOME KIND OF EFFECT ON MY SON THROUGH ME.

PERHAPS IT'S SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE KIYOKAMI BLOOD.

BECAUSE ...

I HESITATED TO EVEN INVESTIGATE HER FURTHER MYSELF.

I HAD NO INTENTION OF WRITING AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE KURODERAS AND KYOKO BYAKUYA.

YOU FEEL HER ...

YOU FEEL HER ...

YOU FEEL HER.

LIGHT, SOUND, SMELL, TASTE, TOUCH.

AND YOU FEEL HER.

YOU ARE GETTING VERY RELAXED.

AH!

AND YOU FEEL THE UNIVERSE MORE AND—

...ARE SCATTERING INTO THE UNIVERSE.

YOUR NERVE CELLS...

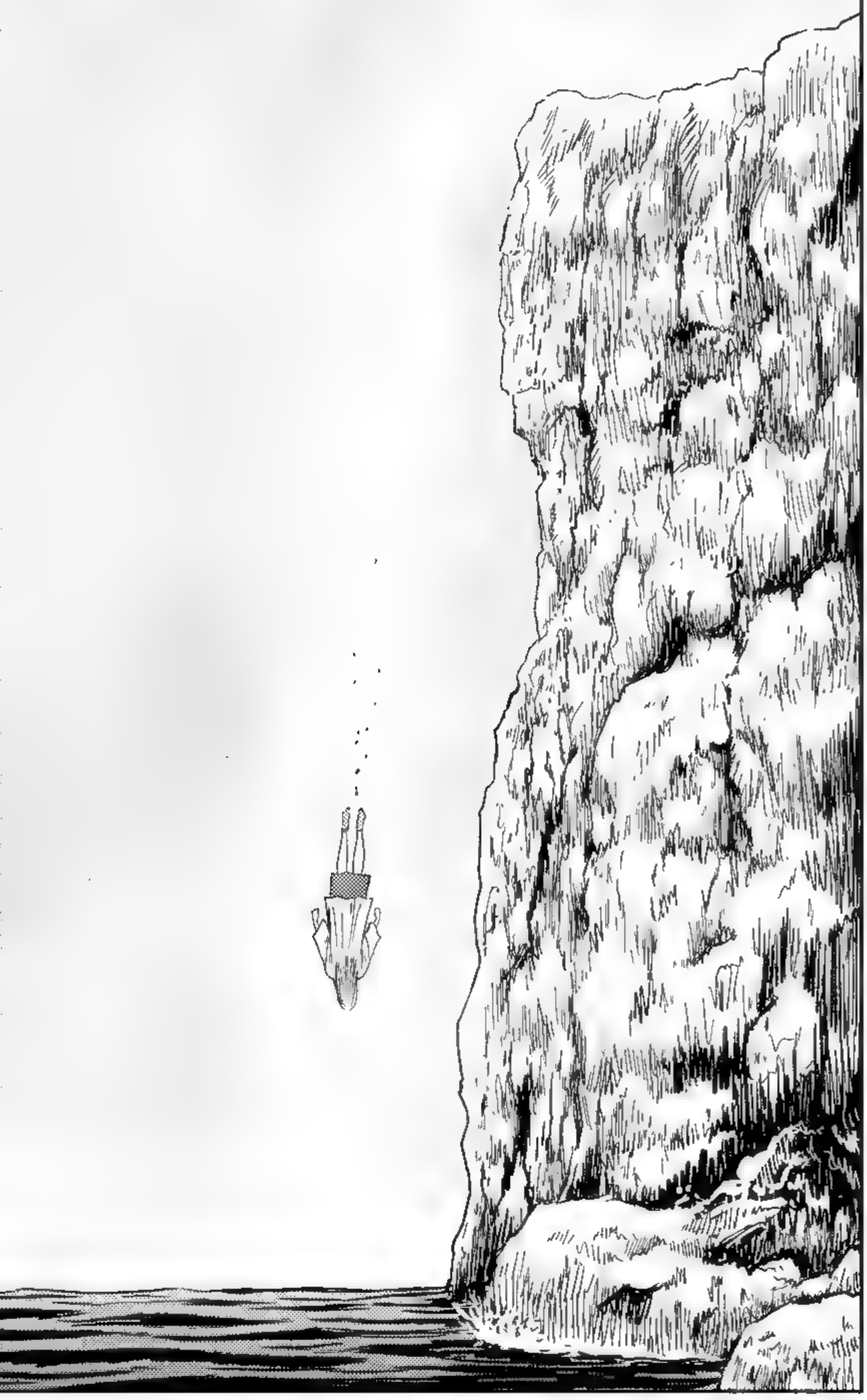
YOU FEEL HER...

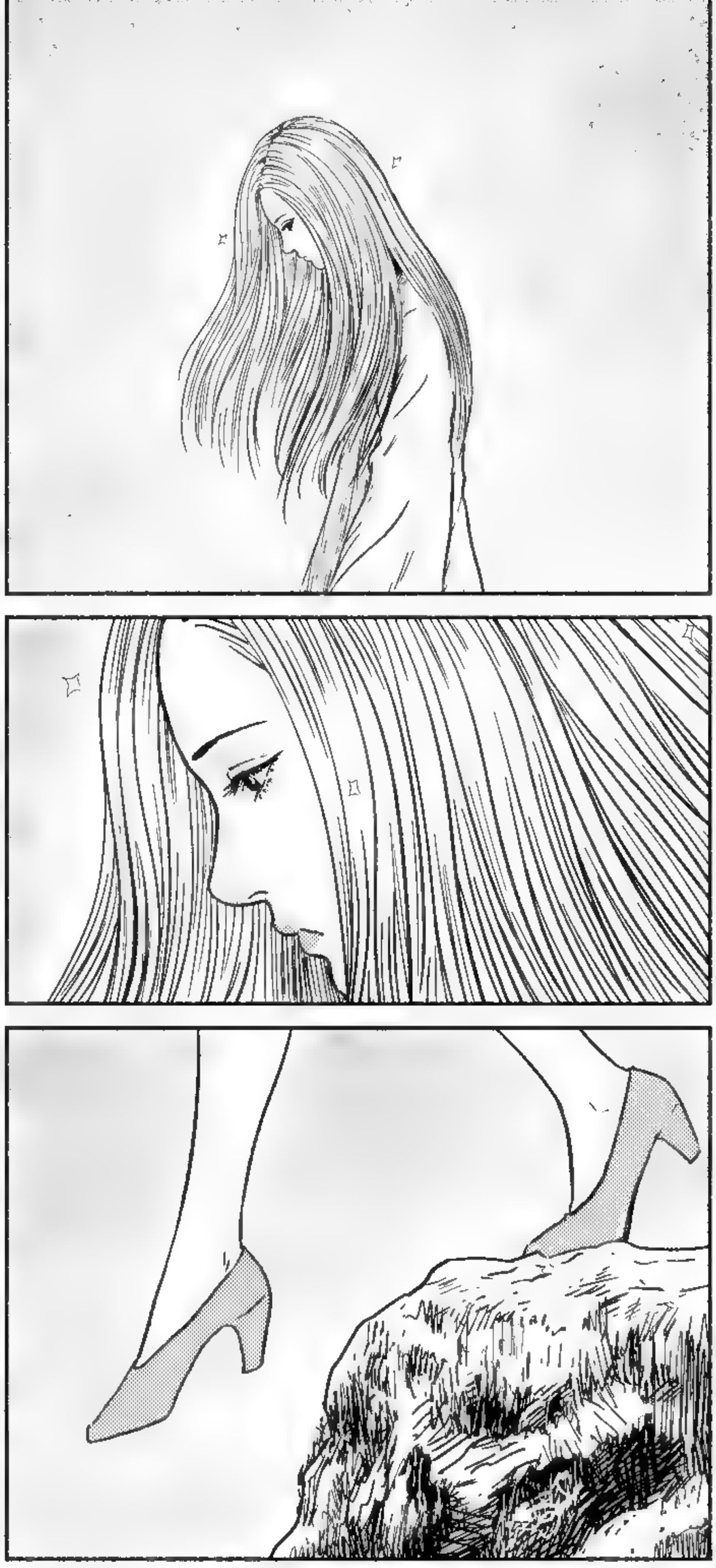
EVEN NOW, I HEAR A STRANGE VOICE.

YOU FEEL HER...

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S YUKIO KURODERA'S OR NOT.

Chapter 3 / END





BUT THAT CLIFF... I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE. WHERE WAS IT?
A DREAM? OF KYOKO BYAKUYA COMMITTING SUICIDE?
AH!

Chapter 4

Battle at Bishagaura

EXCUSE ME?

COFFEE'S ON ME.

HOW ABOUT TAKING A BREAK AT THE TEA-HOUSE THERE?

YOU'VE BEEN STANDING HERE A LONG TIME.

NOD

...BE CAREFUL OF THOSE BUGS.

AND...

OH...

WATCH YOUR STEP THERE, OKAY?

THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM AROUND HERE, AND THEY'RE SURPRISINGLY FAST.

DON'T GET THEM RILED UP.

HERE.

TUK

BISHAGAURA TEAHOUSE

DELICIOUS COFFEE

AND I HELP.

THE OWNER OF THIS TEAHOUSE PATROLS THE AREA.

NO OFFENSE OR ANYTHING.

YOU'VE BEEN OUT THERE ALL DAY, SO I GOT A LITTLE WORRIED.

WE GO AND TALK WITH THEM, GET THEM TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS.

TAKE A MOMENT, THE OTHER SIDE IS DARK AND COLD.

PEOPLE WHO ARE TIRED OF LIFE OFTEN COME HERE.

MAYBE YOU ALREADY KNOW THIS, BUT THE CLIFF HERE AT BISHAGAURA IS FAMOUS FOR SUICIDES.

I... MAYBE I *WAS* WANTING TO DIE.

I GUESS ...

BUT IF YOU NEED TO GET SOMETHING OFF YOUR CHEST, I'M HERE.

I'M NOT SAYING THAT'S YOU.

WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW.

I WONDER WHO I AM?

MY NAME'S RIE KURATA. HOW ABOUT YOU?

I'M HAPPY TO TALK ABOUT IT IF YOU WANT.

WHERE'D YOU COME FROM? YOU LIVE NEARBY?

MISS, YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR OWN NAME?

...

...YOU CAN STAY AT MY PLACE FOR A WHILE.

UM, IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO...

...

...

THERE ARE A LOT OF ROOMS. USE WHICHEVER YOU WANT.

IT'S A WHOLE HOUSE, BUT IT'S OLD AND IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, SO RENT'S CHEAP.

FOLLOW ME.

I'M ORIGI-NALLY FROM TOKYO.

BUT I MOVED HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO VOLUNTEER AT BISHAGAURA.

YES. AND I WAS JUST GETTING LONELY. COME ON IN.

YOU LIVE HERE BY YOUR-SELF?

UGH! YUCK!

WHAT'S WRONG?

...

OH!

THEY MIGHT NOT LOOK IT, BUT THEY'RE SUPER FAST.

PLUS, THEY JUMP ALL OVER THE PLACE AND GET UNDER YOUR FEET LIKE THEY WANT YOU TO STEP ON THEM. SO GROSS.

YOU SEE THEM INSIDE SOMETIMES. PEOPLE AROUND HERE HATE THEM MORE THAN COCKROACHES.

THAT FAT BODY IS PACKED WITH A TON OF ORGANS, SO I GUESS IT'S REALLY SOMETHING IF YOU STEP ON ONE.

THERE'S AN ESPECIALLY BIG OUTBREAK THIS YEAR.

SUICIDE BUGS IN A SUICIDE PLACE... I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S IRONIC OR WHAT.

BECAUSE THEY'RE ALWAYS JUMPING UNDER PEOPLE'S FEET AND GETTING CRUSHED.

PEOPLE OUT HERE CALL THEM "SUICIDE BUGS."

SUICIDE BUGS?

...

IT'S SO AWFUL!!

SUICIDE...

I ACTUALLY HAVE A PERSONAL REASON FOR COMING TO BISHAGAURA.

HE WAS SO SENSITIVE, REALLY KIND.

...WITH THIS GUY. WE WERE GOING TO GET MARRIED.

BACK IN TOKYO, I WAS...

IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE TWO YEARS AGO.

...RELATION-SHIPS WERE HARD FOR HIM.

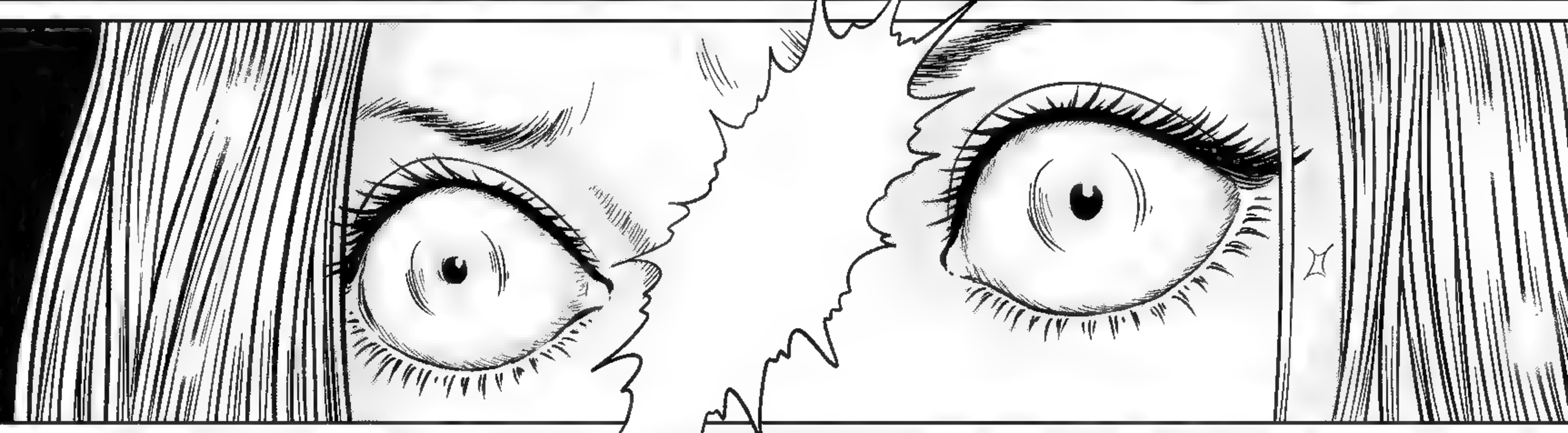
SO I'M SURE...

PLEASE STAND BEHIND THE YELLOW LINE...

THE TRAIN WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY ON PLATFORM FOUR

LEAP

WHAM



KRRRRRRRR

SO I THOUGHT IF I COULD AT LEAST SAVE OTHERS HERE...

I COULDN'T SAVE HIM.

YUTO ENDED HIS LIFE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.

...IS POURING INTO MY HEAD.

A VISION ...

I'LL GO MAKE SOME MORE TEA, OKAY?

I SHOULDN'T BE JUST TELLING YOU THIS!

OH! I'M SORRY.

ΠΑΙΣ ΠΑΙΣ ΠΑΙΣ ΠΑΙΣ

KLATER

ハンバーグ

ごはん！

ゴロゴロ

ごろごろ…

CRACK

THUD

EEEEW!

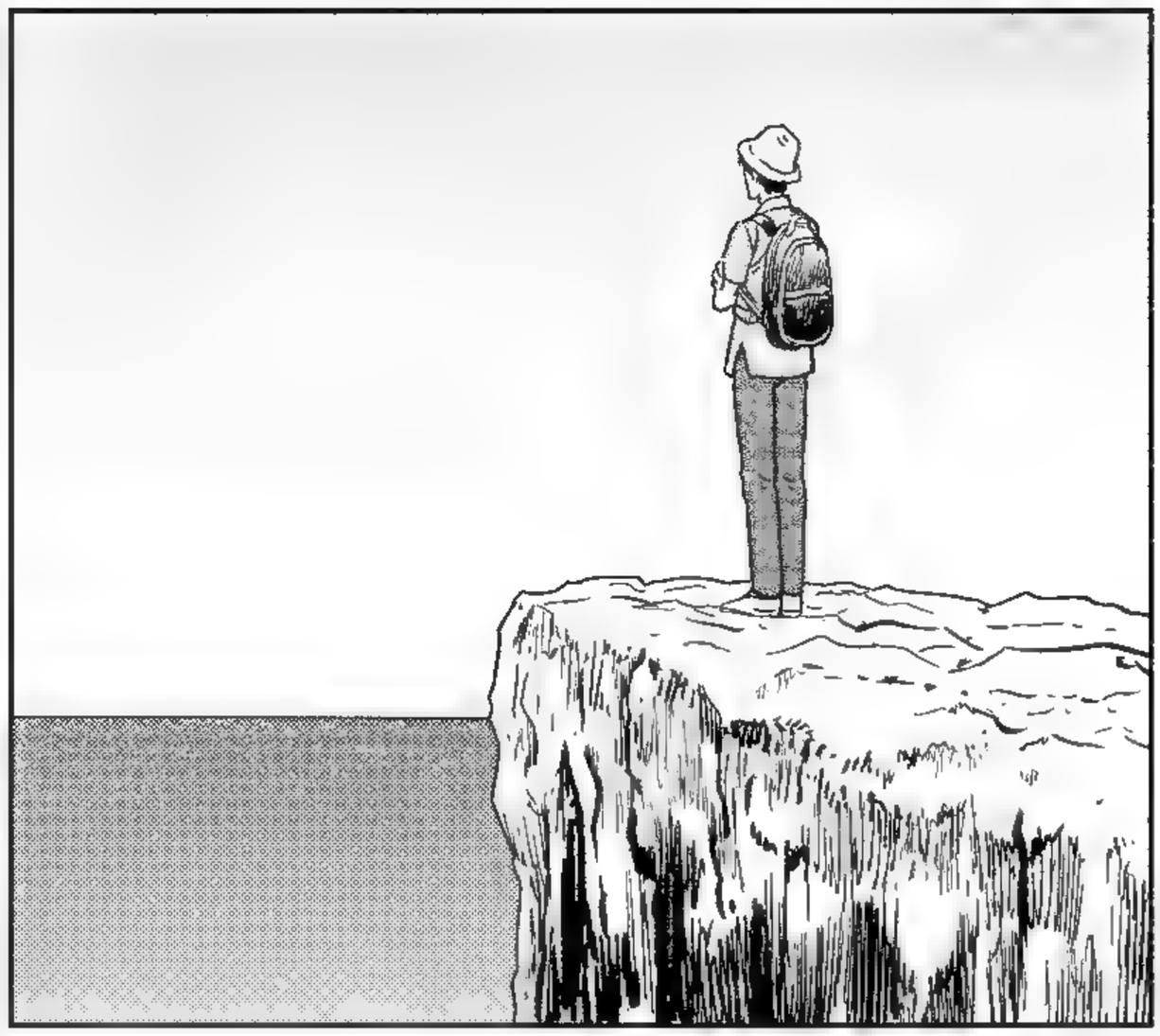
GROSS!

UGH!

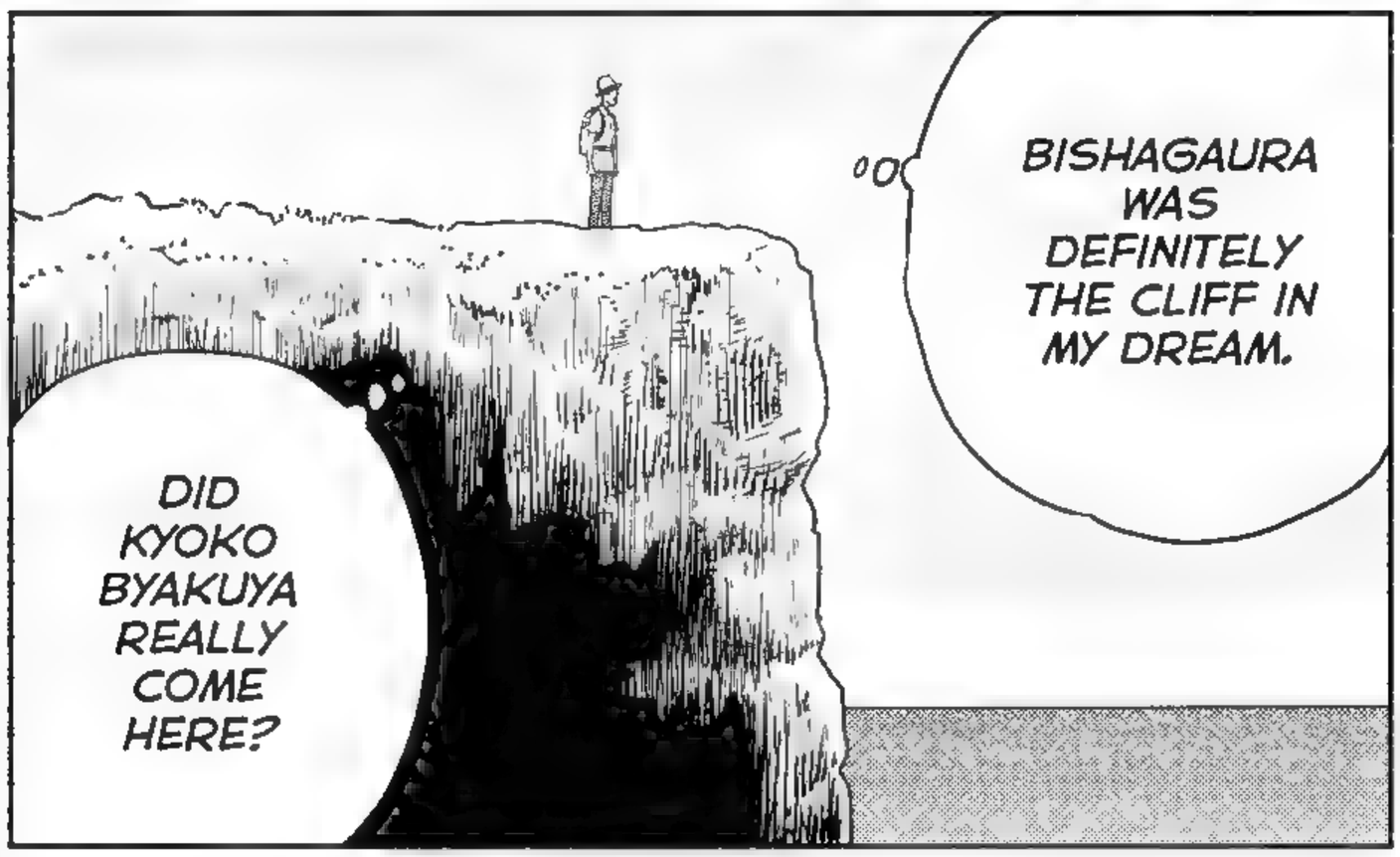
...

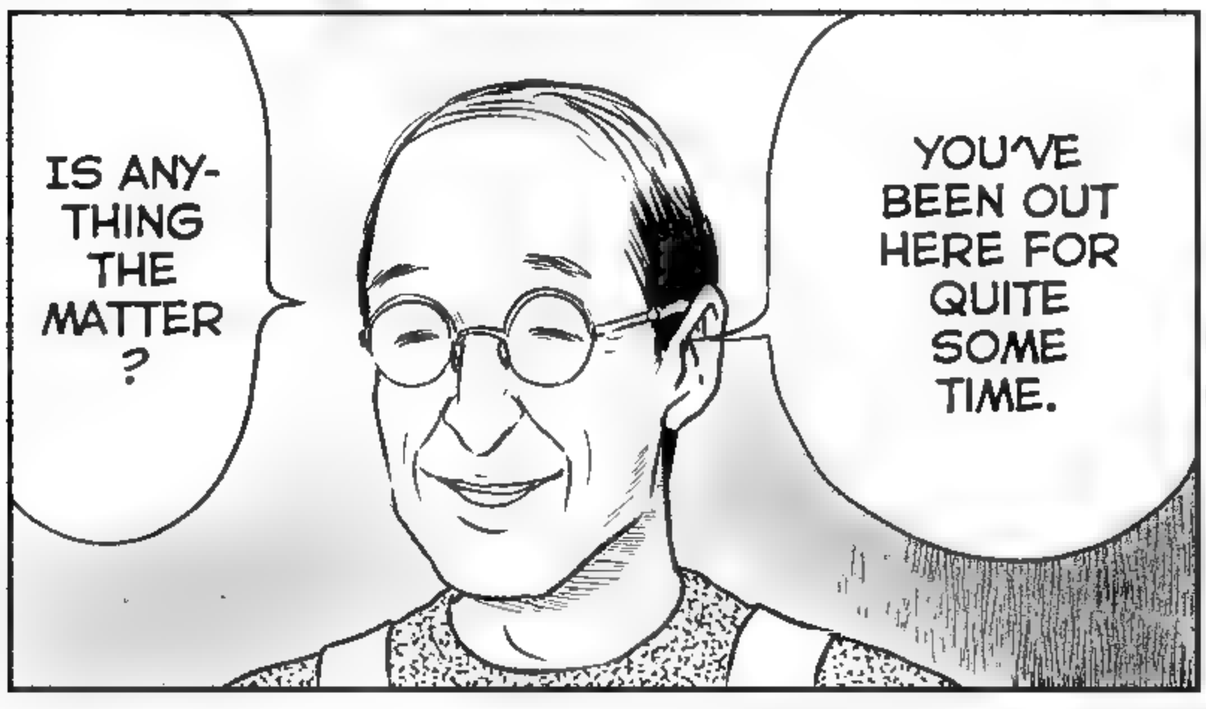
KEE KEE...

KEE...



EXCUSE ME?


DID KYOKO BYAKUYA REALLY COME HERE?
BISHAGAURA WAS DEFINITELY THE CLIFF IN MY DREAM.


IS ANY-THING THE MATTER ?
YOU'VE BEEN OUT HERE FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

NO...
WHAT?

HM? WHAT'S THAT?

SO YOU'RE THE OWNER? I HAVE A SORT OF AWKWARD QUESTION.

OH! YES. PLEASE.

HOW ABOUT A COFFEE AT THE TEAHOUSE THERE?

YES, SHE DID. TODAY, IN FACT.

WHAT? A WOMAN WITH BEAUTIFUL GOLDEN HAIR?

ARE YOU A FRIEND?

HAS A WOMAN WITH BEAUTIFUL GOLDEN HAIR COME HERE RECENTLY?

SHE'S LOST HER MEMORY...

NO. WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT JUST THAT, SO WE STARTED TALKING TO HER.

WHERE IS SHE NOW? SHE DIDN'T ACTUALLY JUMP OFF THE CLIFF, DID SHE?!

WHAT?! SO SHE *DID* COME HERE!

PROBABLY. BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW HER?

WOULD I BE ABLE TO SEE HER?!

TAKE A MOMENT. THE OTHER SIDE IS DARK AND COLD.

AT ANY RATE, MY EMPLOYEE TOOK HER HOME.

WHOA!

SPLRK

WELL, I'M ACTUALLY A REPORTER. WATARU—

AH!

AND TAKE A LOOK AT ITS INSIDES.

THEY MAKE SUCH A WEIRD NOISE WHEN THEY'RE CRUSHED.

I STEPPED ON ANOTHER ONE. WHAT *ARE* THESE BUGS?

NOT ON PURPOSE. THEY KEEP JUMPING UNDER MY FEET.

I STEPPED ON I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY ON THE WAY HERE.

HERE'S THE HEAD, AND THEN THE TORSO.

DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE A PERSON SOME-HOW?

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.

YES, IT'S TRUE, THEIR INSIDES ARE DISTURBING.

THIS FACE...

AAAH.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

OH.

OH, RIGHT. THE WOMAN WITH THE GOLDEN HAIR. I'LL SHOW YOU THE WAY.

I'M SORRY. WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?

EXACTLY LIKE HIM, IN FACT.

IT LOOKS A LOT LIKE THE MAN WHO DROWNED HIMSELF HERE THREE MONTHS AGO.

THEY REALLY ARE DIS-TURBING INSECTS.

IT LOOKS JUST LIKE YUTO!

...YUTO. IT'S ...

KEE ...

KEE ...

KEE KEE ...

IF I ACTIVATE MY SENSORS, I MIGHT FIND OUT WHAT IT IS.

I FEEL AN EVIL POWER.

WHY...WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME ALL ALONE?!

AAH, YUTO!

FWP

KEE ...

YUTO ?!

!

I KNOW.

KEE... KEE KEE, RIE...

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.

YOU WERE CHEATING ON ME.

...

WHAT ?!

Y—

YUTO ...

SO I KILLED MY-SELF.

TO BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU.

STOP IT!

THE EMBRACE ON THE STREET.

YUTO !

HOTEL

I KNEW.

ABOUT THE RENDEZ-VOUS AT THE HOTEL.

STOMP

WITH YOUR EX...

HAAH.

HAAH.

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

?!

BOING

HAAH.

HAAH.

BOING

R-
RIE...

WHY WOULD SO MANY...

WHY?

WHAT ?

EEEAH!

...JUST GO OUT-SIDE.

M-MAYBE WE SHOULD ...

!!

SHH SHH SHH

WHSH

JUST STOP IT ALREADY!

AAH!

EEE!

EEGH!

SKRRCH

NGH!

SKRRCH

EEEGH!

SKRRCH

GENH!

SKRRCH

WE ACTUALLY WANTED TO LIVE.

WE DIDN'T COMMIT SUICIDE BECAUSE WE WANTED TO.

AAH, I HURT SO MUCH.

I HURT.

BHEEH!

SHUDDER

TWITCH

TWITCH

AAH, BUT DEATH IS STILL HELL.

KEE

KEE

KEE

WHEN WILL THIS SUFFERING END?

YOU WILL KNOW OUR HATRED.

WE'LL KEEP DYING IF IT MEANS WE CAN FIND PEACE.

EEE

EAAH!

THIS IS NOT WHERE YOU BELONG!

YOU MUST GO BACK!

COME WITH ME!

DASH

¡HO

¡HA

HSSZ

HSSZ

HSSZ

HSSZ

HSSZ

HSSZ

HSSZ

HSSZ

TAP

TAP

SWISH SWISH SWISH SWISH SWISH

LEAP

SPLOOSH

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HER AFTER THAT.

BUT I BELIEVE SHE IS ALIVE.

ALMOST ALL OF THE SUICIDE BUGS DISAPPEARED INTO THE OCEAN WITH KYOKO BYAKUYA.

Chapter 4 / END

Chapter 5

Traffic Mirror

THE LARGEST SINCE THE VOLCANO BECAME ACTIVE TWO YEARS AGO.

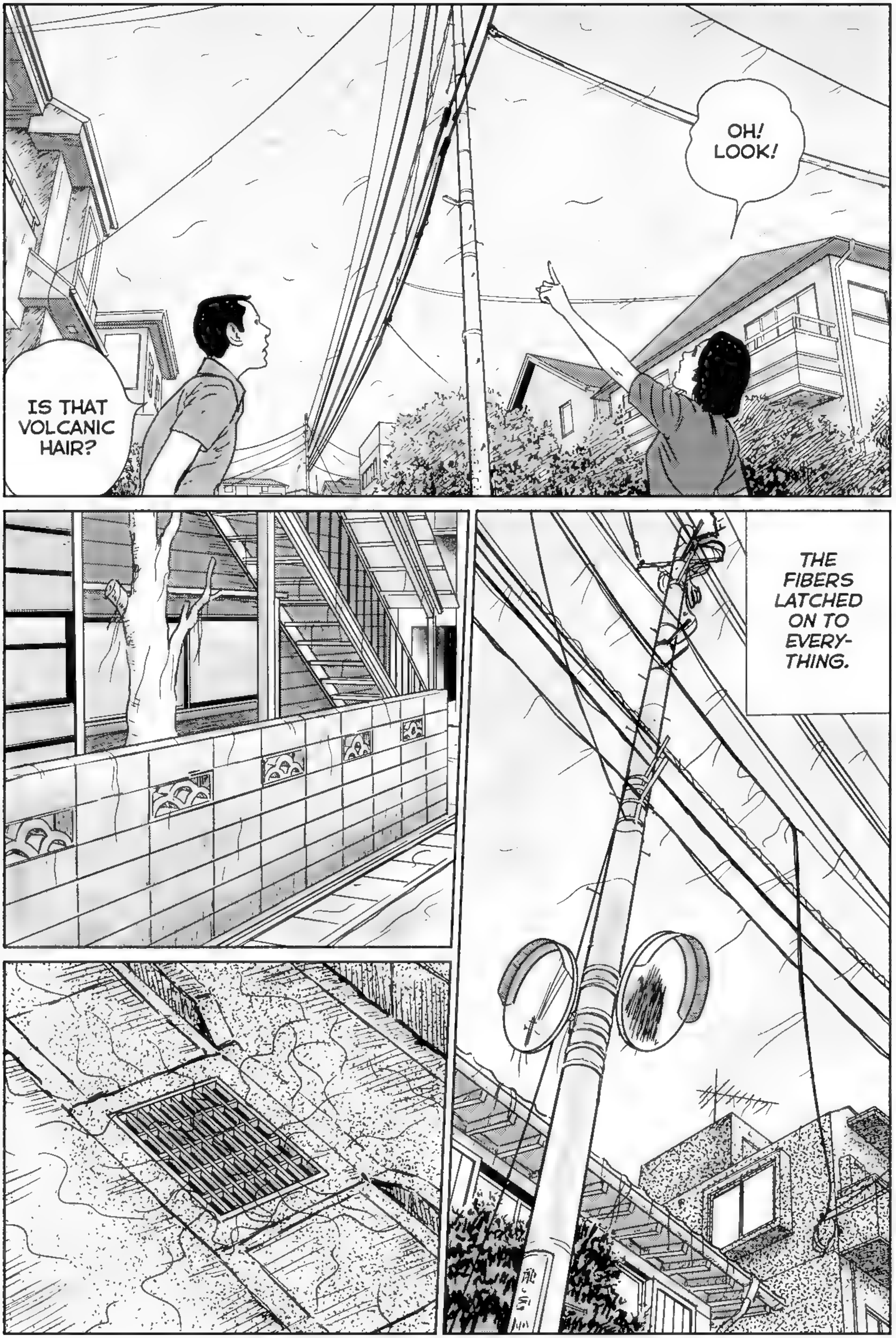
THERE WAS ANOTHER ERUPTION A MONTH AGO AT MOUNT SENGOKU.

BUT MOUNT SENGOKU'S VOLCANIC HAIR IS VERY SUPPLE, JUST LIKE REAL HAIR.

MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF VOLCANIC HAIR WERE BLOWN INTO THE AIR.

THE WIND CARRIED IT TO THE DISTANT KANTO PLAIN, EVEN TO TOKYO.

VOLCANIC HAIR IS CREATED WHEN FILAMENTS OF MOLTEN LAVA COOL AND HARDEN INTO THIN, HAIRLIKE STRANDS.


OH! LOOK!
IS THAT VOLCANIC HAIR?
THE FIBERS LATCHED ON TO EVERY-THING.

...SOME VOLCANIC HAIR STILL REMAINED IN PLACES AROUND TOWN.

ALTHOUGH WIND AND RAIN CLEARED MOST OF IT AWAY...

AND WHEN AMAGAMI CAME UP...

...I COULDN'T HELP BUT REMEMBER KYOKO BYAKUYA.

IT USUALLY COMES IN A VARIETY OF COLORS, BUT THIS KIND WAS JET-BLACK AND VERY FLEXIBLE.

APPAR-ENTLY, THIS WAS QUITE UNUSUAL.

SOME SAID THAT GOLDEN VOLCANIC HAIR HAD FALLEN FROM MOUNT SENGOKU IN THE PAST.

I ASSUMED THIS WAS THE AMAGAMI THAT BLANKETED THE EXTINCT VILLAGE OF KIYOKAMI IN AN ERUPTION 60 YEARS EARLIER.

KYOKO BYAKUYA AND HER PSYCHIC EYE.

WHERE WAS SHE NOW?

I THOUGHT IT WAS VERY LIKELY THAT THIS AMAGAMI WAS WHAT PROTECTED HER IN THE ERUPTION OF MOUNT SENGOKU TWO YEARS AGO.

AND THAT BEAUTIFUL HAIR OF HERS.

I WANTED TO DREAM OF HER AGAIN.

BUT I HADN'T SINCE THEN.

THE LAST TIME I SAW HER WAS IN THE OCEAN AT BISHAGAURA.

I ABSO-LUTELY BELIEVE SHE'S ALIVE.

IF I DREAMED OF HER, I MIGHT LEARN WHERE SHE WAS.

OR...IF I WERE ALSO CLAIRVOYANT, I COULD FIND HER.

INSTEAD, LATELY...

...I DREAM OF ANOTHER WOMAN.

WATARU.

REMEMBER ME? BENIKO. BENIKO YAMAOKA.

( )

SHE STARTED STALKING ME AFTER WE MET THROUGH WORK FIVE YEARS AGO.

YES. BENIKO YAMAOKA.

I GOT A RESTRAINING ORDER FROM THE POLICE AND NEVER SAW HER AFTER THAT.

FOR A YEAR, SHE FOLLOWED ME, AMBUSHED ME, EAVES-DROPPED ON ME.

THEY NOTED MY DOINGS IN GREAT DETAIL, EVERY ONE OF THEM CORRECT.

SHE WAS DEFINITELY WATCHING ME AGAIN!

Mr. Wataru Tsuchiyado
Suginami-ku, Tokyo

...THE LETTERS SUDDENLY STARTED COMING AGAIN.

HOWEVER, LAST MONTH, AFTER FOUR YEARS OF NOTHING ...

ANOTHER LETTER CAME TODAY.

I CHECKED MY APARTMENT FOR LISTENING DEVICES OR HIDDEN CAMERAS, BUT FOUND NOTHING.

"WATARU... YOU'RE STILL HUNG UP ON KYOKO BYAKUYA?

GIVE UP ALREADY. SHE'S TOO MUCH FOR YOU.

AND SHE DOESN'T EVEN SEE YOU. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MAKE YOU HAPPY."

BENIKO KNOWS I'VE BEEN CHASING KYOKO BYAKUYA.

EVEN THOUGH I STILL HAVEN'T WRITTEN A SINGLE ARTICLE ABOUT HER.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS.

I REPORTED HER TO THE POLICE AGAIN.

POLICE

CRIME PREVENTION

BUT I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY SEEN HER.

FWP

FWP

BUT IF I FIND THEM, THEY'RE NOT GETTING OFF SCOT-FREE.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR OR BENIKO HERSELF.

VRRR

?!

VRRRRP

AAAH!

WHAM

SKREEE

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I'M SO SORRY. I KNOW THE TRAFFIC MIRROR'S BENT NOW, BUT MAYBE KEEP THIS QUIET?

WHAT? WHY WOULD I...

REALLY?! YOU WEREN'T *TRYING* TO HIT ME, WERE YOU?!

I-I'M SORRY! I GOT THE GAS AND THE BRAKE MIXED UP!

AH!

VRRR

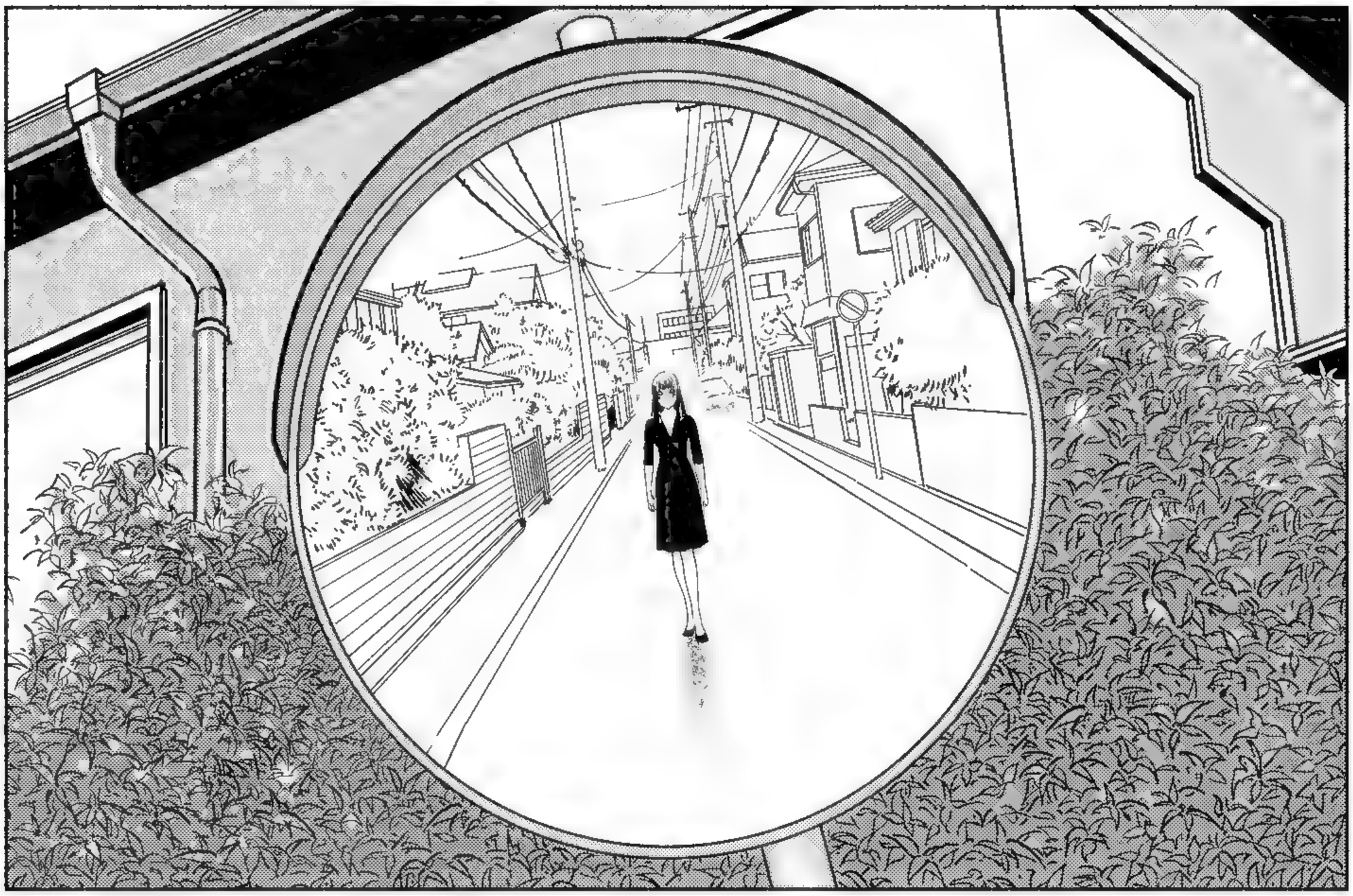
VRRR

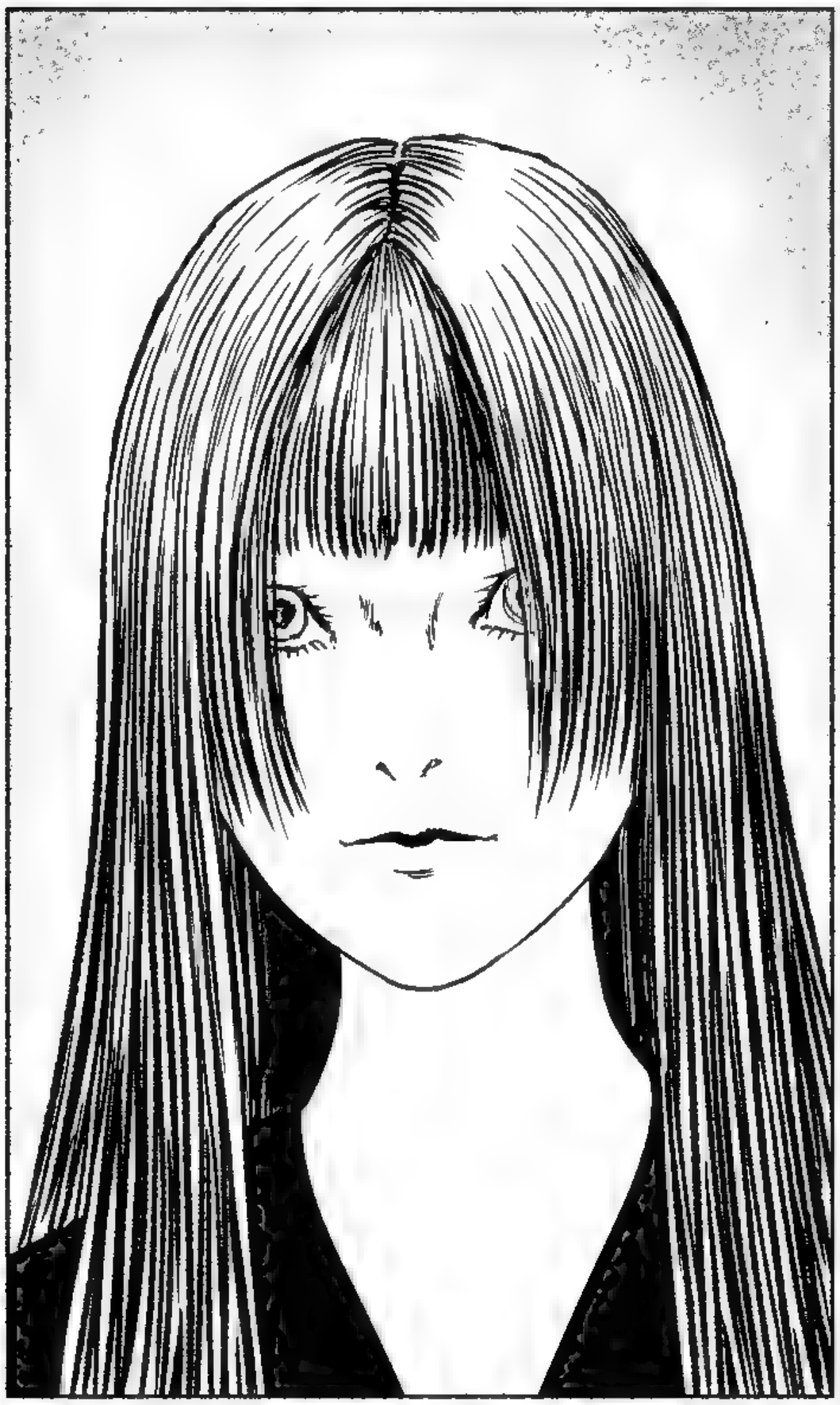
VRRR

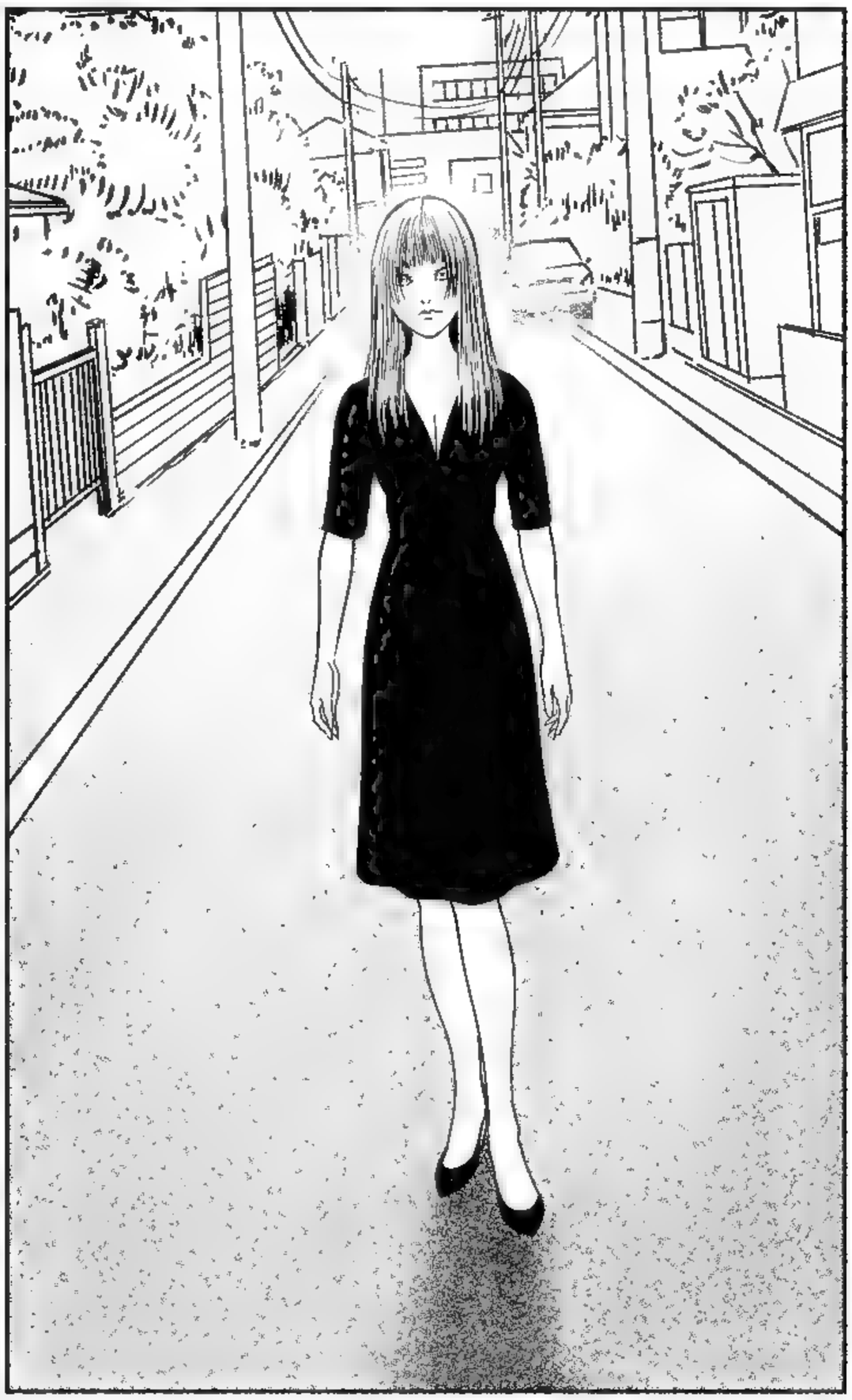
BAM

WHAT ?!

HE HIT ANOTHER ONE?!
WHAT THE—? IS THAT GUY OKAY?
VRRR
VRRR
AH ?!







BENIKO ...

SHE'S NOT THERE ...

AAAH!

BANG

I CAN SEE YOU...NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE.

IT'S NO USE, WATARU.

IT'S A HALLUCI-NATION. ALL IN MY HEAD...

AAAH!

SHAKE

SHAKE

THE WOMAN WAS TALKING INCOHERENTLY ABOUT BEING WATCHED FROM AFAR THROUGH THE TRAFFIC MIRROR.

WHAP

WHAT ?

SHAKE

SHAKE

NOW FOR OUR NEXT STORY. A 25-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS ARRESTED FOR BREAKING A TRAFFIC MIRROR IN XX WARD THIS AFTERNOON.

I BROKE THE MIRROR IN SELF-DEFENSE!

HE'S STALKING ME!

...THROUGH THE TRAFFIC MIRRORS!

IT'S TRUE. YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME! HE'S WATCHING ME FROM FAR AWAY...

THE POLICE CANNOT CONFIRM IF ILLICIT SUB-STANCE USE IS INVOLVED.

THE SUSPECT IS TO UNDERGO A PSYCHO-LOGICAL EVALUATION.

STRANGELY, ALL THE SUSPECTS GIVE THE SAME REASON.

IN FACT, THERE HAS BEEN A RASH OF SIMILAR MIRROR BREAKAGES NATIONWIDE.

...

SOME EXPERTS ARE SUGGESTING IT MIGHT BE A KIND OF MASS HYSTERIA.

IF IT WERE, BENIKO YAMAOKA MIGHT...

NO... THAT'S JUST NOT...

IT CAN'T BE...IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?

WATCHING FROM A DISTANCE... THROUGH THE TRAFFIC MIRRORS?

WHAT ?!

VEHICLES ARE CRASHING INTO THE MIRRORS AND THEN FLEEING THE SCENE.

AND ONE MORE STORY ABOUT TRAFFIC MIRRORS WE'RE SEEING A LOT OF LATELY.

...

THE POLICE SEE THESE HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENTS AS BEING UNRELATED TO THE PEOPLE BREAKING THE TRAFFIC MIRRORS.

THERE ARE REPORTS OF BENT POLES AND OTHER DAMAGE FROM THESE ACCIDENTS IN SEVERAL REGIONS, BUT NO SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED.

THE RASH OF MIRROR VANDALIZATIONS AND HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENTS...

...BECAME THE FOCUS OF PUBLIC ATTENTION, A STRANGE SOCIAL PHENOMENON.

CAUTION

...THROUGH A SERIES OF TRAFFIC MIRRORS.

OBVIOUSLY, YOU CAN'T OBSERVE FROM AFAR...

...THAT'S HAD EVERYONE TALKING. TAKE A LOOK.

WE SAT DOWN WITH AN EXPERT TO DISCUSS THE TRAFFIC MIRROR URBAN LEGEND...

BUT EVEN SUPPOSING YOU *COULD* SEE INTO THE DISTANCE WITH A TELESCOPE THROUGH MULTIPLE MIRRORS, ACTUAL ROADS ARE MORE COMPLEX.

AND THERE ARE ANY NUMBER OF INTER-SECTIONS WITHOUT ANY MIRRORS AT ALL.

...SOME-ONE'S WATCHING THEM THROUGH THE REFLECTIONS IN THE MIRRORS LIKE THIS DIAGRAM.

THEY LIKELY MEAN...

UH! ...

YOU'D HAVE TO CHANGE THOSE ANGLES IN ORDER TO HAVE DISTANT MIRRORS REFLECT EACH OTHER.

THEY'RE ANGLED TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR DRIVERS TO SEE AROUND CORNERS.

MOREOVER, THE MAJORITY OF MIRRORS DON'T FACE EACH OTHER.

...AND THE HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENTS REALLY UNRELATED ?

ARE THE TRAFFIC MIRROR VANDALIZA-TIONS...

BUT I WANT TO CHECK SOMETHING BEFORE I TURN MYSELF IN.

I'M ALSO GUILTY OF PROPERTY DAMAGE.

HUP !

THERE WE GO.

SO THEN THE ACCIDENT DID MAKE THE MIRRORS FACE EACH OTHER. IS IT JUST A COINCIDENCE?!

I KNEW IT! I CAN SEE ANOTHER MIRROR OVER THERE IN THIS TILTED ONE.

IN THAT CASE, ARE ALL THE HIT-AND-RUNS ACROSS THE COUNTRY THE WORK OF THIS ONE MAN? OR...

IS IT A GROUP OF SOME KIND?

TO MAKE THE MIRRORS FACE EACH OTHER...

WHAT IF THAT DRIVER WAS DELIBERATELY BENDING THE POLES?

HM?

THERE WAS NO WAY SOMEONE COULD GET THE RIGHT ANGLE JUST BY HITTING THE POLE WITH A CAR.

BUT I WAS SOON STRUCK BY A THOUGHT.

SNAP

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN? IT'S ME, WATARU TSUCHIYADO, THE REPORTER.

DR. KURO-DERA.

KURODERA CLINIC

...

IT WAS SO STRANGE TO FIND IT THERE, SO I WANTED TO GET YOUR OPINION SINCE YOU'RE FROM KIYOKAMI.

...AND I FOUND THIS ON THE CRACKED MIRROR. VOLCANIC HAIR FROM MOUNT SENGOKU.

SZZD

P-ZCI

IT'S A VOLCANIC GLASS FIBER, SO IN THEORY, IT COULD ALSO BE USED AS A FIBER-OPTIC MATERIAL.

MM-HMM... THE SURFACE IS BLACK, BUT THE INSIDE'S TRANSPARENT.

OH, THE THING THAT BENDS AND LETS YOU SEE WITH LIGHT, RIGHT?

FIBER-OPTIC?

IT'S USED IN ENDOSCOPES AND THE LIKE.

...SO THEN WHAT?

SO THEN...

OH!

YES, YOU CAN SEE IN THE DIRECTION THE SCOPE IS BENT IN.

WHAT?!

THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH!

WHAT ?!

HUH ?!

MR. TSUCHI-YADO, YOU'RE SNIFFING AROUND A LITTLE TOO MUCH.

WHO ARE YOU?

YES, WATARU.

AH! YOU'RE THAT DRIVER!

YOU ...!

Y—

IT'S ME, BENIKO.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

...I WAS IN AN UNFAMILIAR ROOM.

UH!

THAT WAS ALL I REMEMBERED.

WHEN I CAME TO...

UNNH ...

I SUPPOSE THEY GUESSED YOU'D COME.

THEY BARGED IN A LITTLE BEFORE YOU ARRIVED AT THE CLINIC.

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?

OH! DR. KURO-DERA.

JUST WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO HERE?!

WE CAN SEE EVERYTHING.

EX-ACTLY.

AND MY TARGET IS TO MAKE YOU MINE, WATARU. THAT SHOULD GIVE ME THE MOST ENERGY.

WE HAVE ONLY ONE ULTIMATE GOAL, BUT WE HAVE TO ACHIEVE A NUMBER OF TARGETS FIRST.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THE POWER OF THIS BLACK AMAGAMI.

TO THAT END, WE USE CLAIRVOYANCE. OUR POWER IS STILL DEVELOPING, BUT IT WILL BE ESTABLISHED SOON.

WE'RE MAKING MINUTE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE TRAFFIC MIRRORS ALL OVER JAPAN, BUT THAT'S A MERE TRIVIALITY.

OUR "SIGHT" ALREADY REACHES INTO EVERY CORNER OF THE COUNTRY.

NOW THAT HAIRS ARE SCATTERED OVER THE COUNTRY, THEY CAN CATCH REFLECTIONS FROM MIRRORS ALL THROUGHOUT JAPAN.

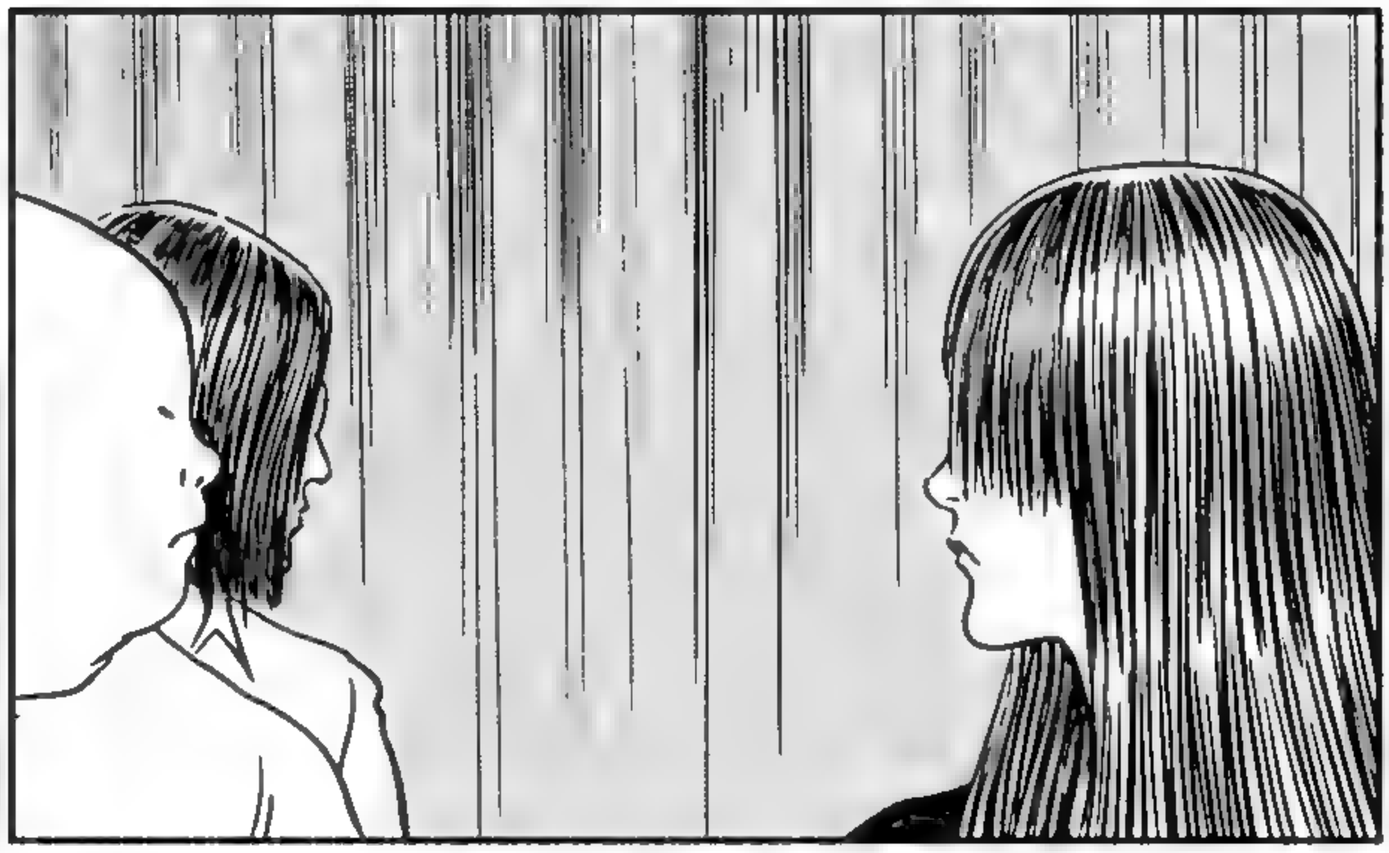
?!

YES. TO EVERY CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE.

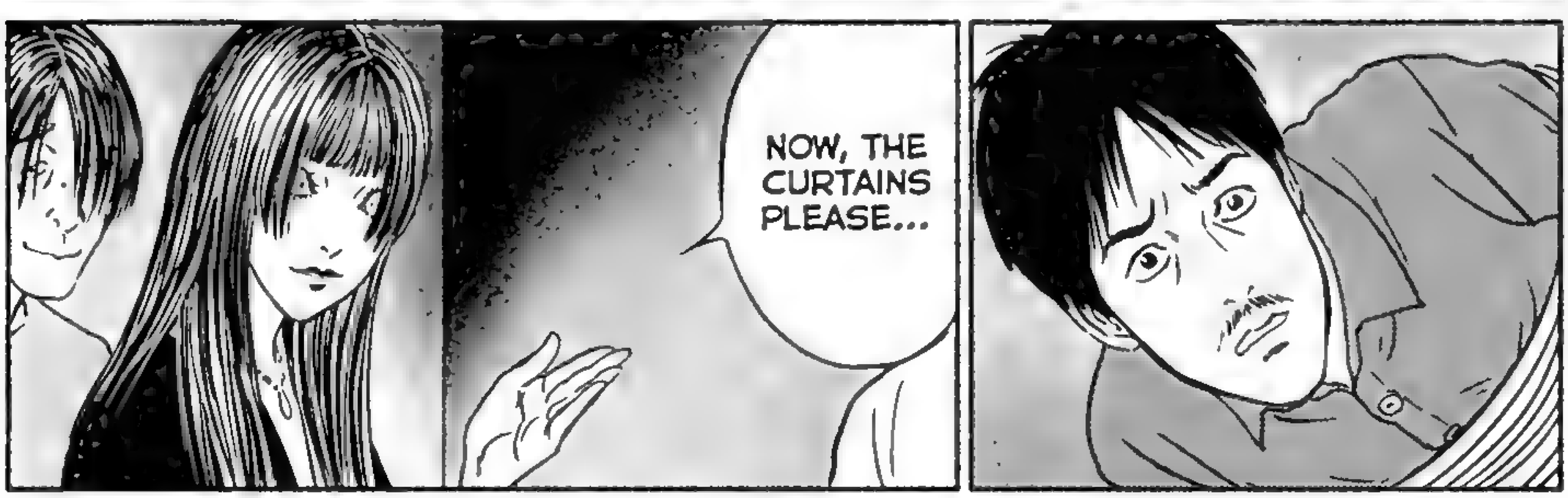
AND FINALLY...

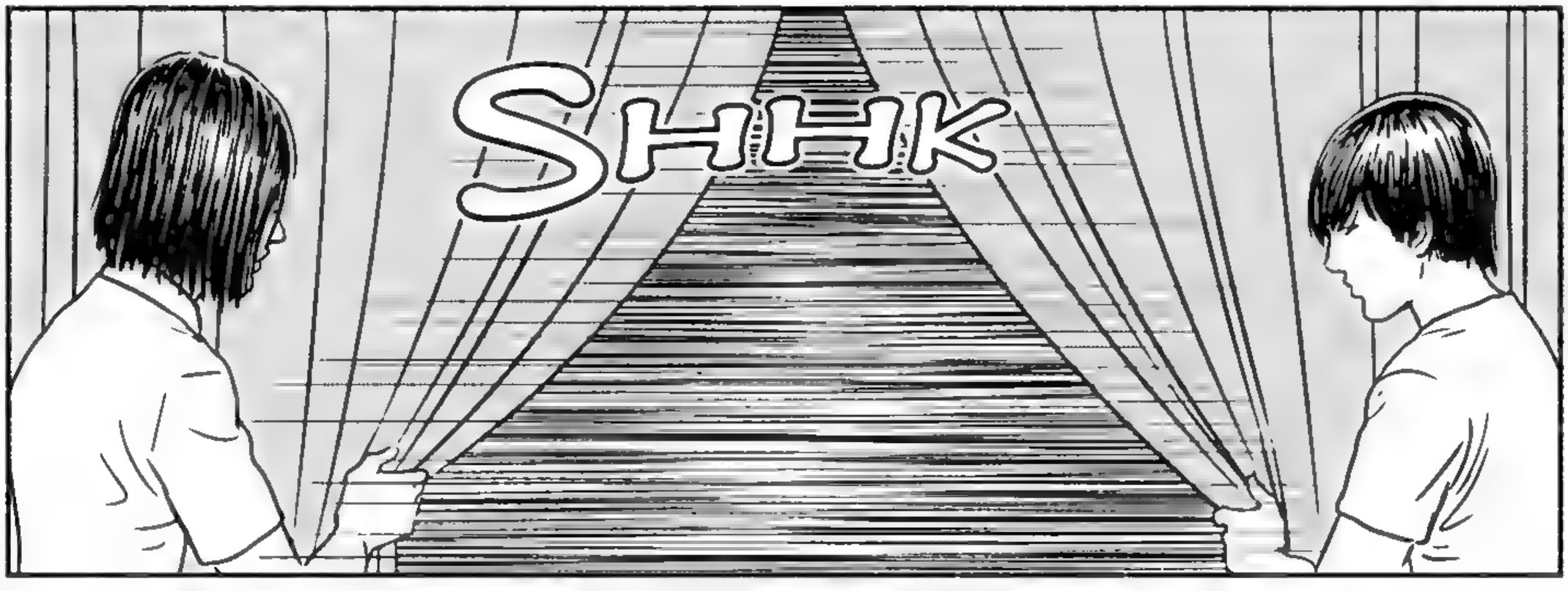
AND IT WILL EXPAND OUT TO THE ENTIRE WORLD.

OUR LEADER AND THE FOUNDER OF THIS SECT.
IT'S TIME FOR THE STAR OF THE SHOW.



I'M SEARCHING FOR HER WITH EVERYTHING I HAVE.
YES. BUT FOR THAT WE NEED THE POWER OF KYOKO BYAKUYA.
JUST AS HE SAYS, OUR ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IS TO KNOW THE FULL HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE.


NOW, THE CURTAINS PLEASE...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Chapter 5 / END

Chapter 6

Jet-Black

YOU'RE ALIVE?!

UH...IT CAN'T BE. YOU WERE...

DID YOU THINK I WAS DEAD?

YES. IT IS I, KAGERO AIDO OF INDIGO SHADOW.

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

WATARU TSUCHI-YADO, WE MEET AGAIN.

ALTHOUGH, AS YOU CAN SEE, I SUFFERED TERRIBLE BURNS.

BECAUSE A GREAT GOD OF THE DISTANT DARKNESS RESCUED ME...

DURING THAT MEDITATION, THE FORMER MEMBERS OF INDIGO SHADOW WERE CRUSHED BY THE INCOMPLETE AKASHIC RECORDS. THEY ALL DIED. I ALONE WAS SPARED.

A GOD OF THE DISTANT DARKNESS?

...AND GAVE ME SPECIAL POWERS.

WITH THIS POWER FROM THE GOD OF THE DISTANT DARKNESS, ACCESSING THE RECORDS IS ABOUT TO BECOME REALITY.

THE LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSE, RECORDING ALL INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIVERSE — PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

AND I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON OBTAINING THE AKASHIC RECORDS.

NO. SHE HAS TO BE ALIVE.

BUT WE CAN'T FIND HER, NOT EVEN WHEN WE MOBILIZE ALL OF OUR SIGHT. IS SHE DEAD?

THAT SAID, WE DO NEED KYOKO BYAKUYA AND HER PSYCHIC EYE FOR THIS.

YOU HAVE THE SAME GOLDEN HAIR AS SHE DOES, ALBEIT ONLY A LITTLE.

I SENSE HER PRESENCE THROUGH YOU.

THE PROOF IS IN DR. KURODERA.

THIS AMAGAMI WAS SAID TO BE THE HAIR OF THE PERSECUTED MISSIONARY MIGUEL.

RIGHT BEFORE THE VILLAGE VANISHED, GOLDEN HAIR CALLED AMAGAMI FELL ON IT.

YOU'RE FROM KIYOKAMI, WHICH WAS DESTROYED IN THE ERUPTION OF MOUNT SENGOKU 62 YEARS AGO.

MIGUEL BLESSED THE VILLAGERS, INCLUDING YOURSELF, DR. KURODERA.

THOSE WITH PIECES OF THIS HAIR STUCK TO THEM HAD THEIR SENSES ENHANCED.

AFTER THAT, GOLDEN HAIR STARTED FLYING OUT OF THE VOLCANO'S MOUTH.

THE VILLAGERS WHO HID HIM WERE PUNISHED BY BEING THROWN INTO THE VOLCANO ALONGSIDE HIM.

SHE WAS ALSO CHOSEN. ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHY.

HER HAIR HAD BEEN REPLACED BY GOLDEN AMAGAMI.

AND THEN KYOKO BYAKUYA SURVIVED THE ERUPTION TWO YEARS AGO, PROTECTED BY A COCOON OF GOLDEN FIBERS ON THE SITE OF KIYOKAMI.

BUT IRONICALLY, THE VILLAGE WAS ANNIHILATED IN AN ERUPTION.

YOU WERE ONE OF THE FEW SURVIVORS.

WHAT IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN MIGUEL AND THE DARK GOD? WHY IS IT COMING OUT OF THE SAME VOLCANO? I DON'T KNOW.

AND I AM THAT DARK GOD'S CHOSEN ONE.

THE HAIR OF THE GREAT GOD OF THE DISTANT DARKNESS.

MEANWHILE, BLACK VOLCANIC HAIR HAS BEEN COMING FROM THE VOLCANO IN RECENT YEARS.

...

DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS?

AT ANY RATE, DOCTOR... YOU MUST KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT KYOKO.

THROUGH MEDITATION, WE WILL EXTRACT THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE ABOUT HER.

SILENCE, HM? WELL THEN, WE SHALL MEDITATE WITH YOU AS THE MEDIUM.

THE CURTAINS.

AND NOT JUST YOU. WE'VE BROUGHT TOGETHER OTHERS WHO HAVE MET KYOKO.

AND YOU WOULD BE USEFUL AS A MEDIUM AS WELL, TSUCHIYADO. YOU'RE ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WHO'VE MET HER.

SHIK

RESCUE GROUP
KAZ-NOYU FIRE

YOU GUYS!
AH!
...

ALL THE PEOPLE I MET WHILE REPORTING ON KYOKO BYAKUYA HAD BEEN ABDUCTED.
THE OWNER OF THE TEA-HOUSE IN BISHAGAURA, THE VOLUN-TEER RIE KURATA.
THE FIRE-FIGHTERS FROM MOUNT SENGOKU, THE MEDICAL PERSON-NEL.

CARRY THE MEDIUMS.

EVERYONE WILL NOW MOVE OUTSIDE.

THEY WILL NO DOUBT ALSO PROVE USEFUL.

IN OTHER WORDS, MEDIUMS WHO HAVE RECORDED TRACES OF HER IN THEIR HEARTS AND BODIES.

HEH HEH HEH, YES. THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO'VE MET KYOKO.

BENIKO YAMAOKA! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS?!

UNTIE US!

YOU'RE MINE NOW.

WATARU. IT'S FINALLY TIME FOR MY DREAMS TO COME TRUE.

PLEASE, LET US GO HOME.

AND IT WILL BRING TO US A VAST SEA OF THE JET-BLACK HAIR.

I PREDICT IT WILL BEGIN TO ERUPT AGAIN VERY SOON.

THIS IS THE FOOT OF MOUNT SEN-GOKU.

EXTRACT EVERYTHING EVEN IF YOU CAN'T IDENTIFY HER IN THEM.

NOW, STAY CLOSE TO THE MEDIUMS! EXTRACT ALL THE INFORMATION ON KYOKO.

THE HAIR WILL GIVE US GREAT POWER, WHICH WE WILL USE TO SEEK OUT KYOKO BYAKUYA.

THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS OURS ONCE WE HAVE HER CLAIRVOYANCE.

AND ACCESS IT.

GET AWAY!

PLEASE STOP!

GET CLOSE.

YOU'VE ALL LOST YOUR MINDS!

DRAW HER OUT WITH YOUR POWER.

FEEL KYOKO.

LET GO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

MEDITATION.

STAGE ONE.

WE'LL FINALLY BE ONE.

STOP!

WATARU.

ST—

NOW, LET US MEDITATE.

TO OUR LIMITS.

JET-BLACK GOD IN THE FAR REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE. HEAR OUR PRAYERS.

GREAT GOD IN THE DISTANT DARKNESS. GIVE US FURTHER POWER.

FWOOMP

UNH!

UNH ...

FEEL THE JET-BLACK GOD WHO ONLY THOSE CHOSEN CAN KNOW.

FOCUS YOUR ENTIRE BEING ON THE JET-BLACK HAIR.

EVOKE

SHE

AAAH!

EWAAT!

IT HURTS!

FEEL KYOKO BYAKUYA.

MEDI-TATION, STAGE TWO.

GAAT!

GET AWAY FROM ME!

SUMMON THE WHOLE OF CREATION BENEATH THE JET-BLACK GOD.

THOSE WITH FORM, THOSE WITH-OUT.

NOOOO!

...

HNGH!

UNH ...

FOCUS EVERY NERVE.

HAH ?!

FEEL KYOKO BYAKUYA.

MY NOSE.

MY TONGUE.

MY EARS.

MY EYES.

I FEEL HER.

I FEEL HER.

THAT'S— ?!

AH...

MY SON.

YUKIO.

ALDEB-ARAN IS HER SWEET LIPS.

SIRIUS IS THE PALE NAPE OF HER NECK.

I FEEL KYOKO BYAKUYA.

SOM-BRERO IS HER SAINTED WOMB.

MAGELLAN IS HER ELEGANT BOSOM.

STAGE THREE.

MEDITA-TION.

BE AT PEACE!

YUKIO, PLEASE.

I'LL MAKE YOU FORGET. I'LL SUCK KYOKO BYAKUYA OUT OF YOU!

FEEL THE JET-BLACK.

I FEEL YOU, WATARU.

AAH, I FEEL IT.

FEEL THE DARK-NESS.

RRRRIP

AH!

GET AWAY!

AH!

STOP!

AIDO!

KAGERO AIDO LOOKED TERRIFYINGLY ENORMOUS.

IT HAD TO HAVE BEEN A HALLUCI-NATION.

THUD

LUNGE

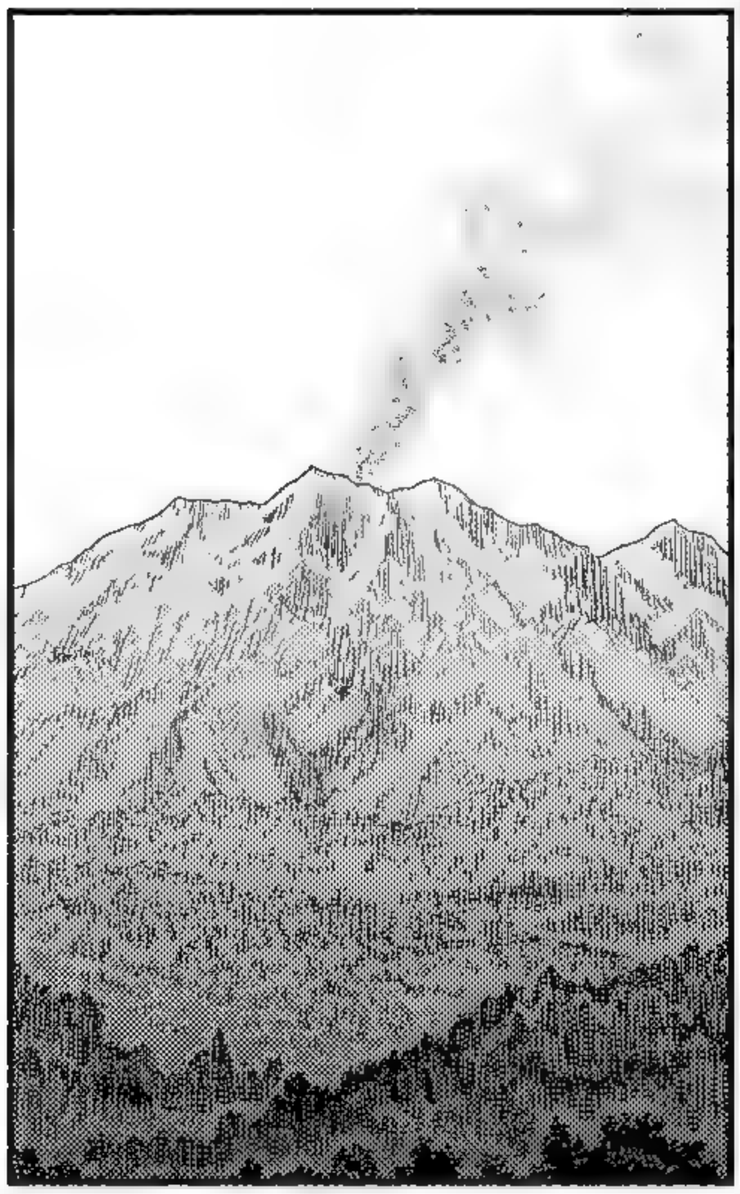
AH!

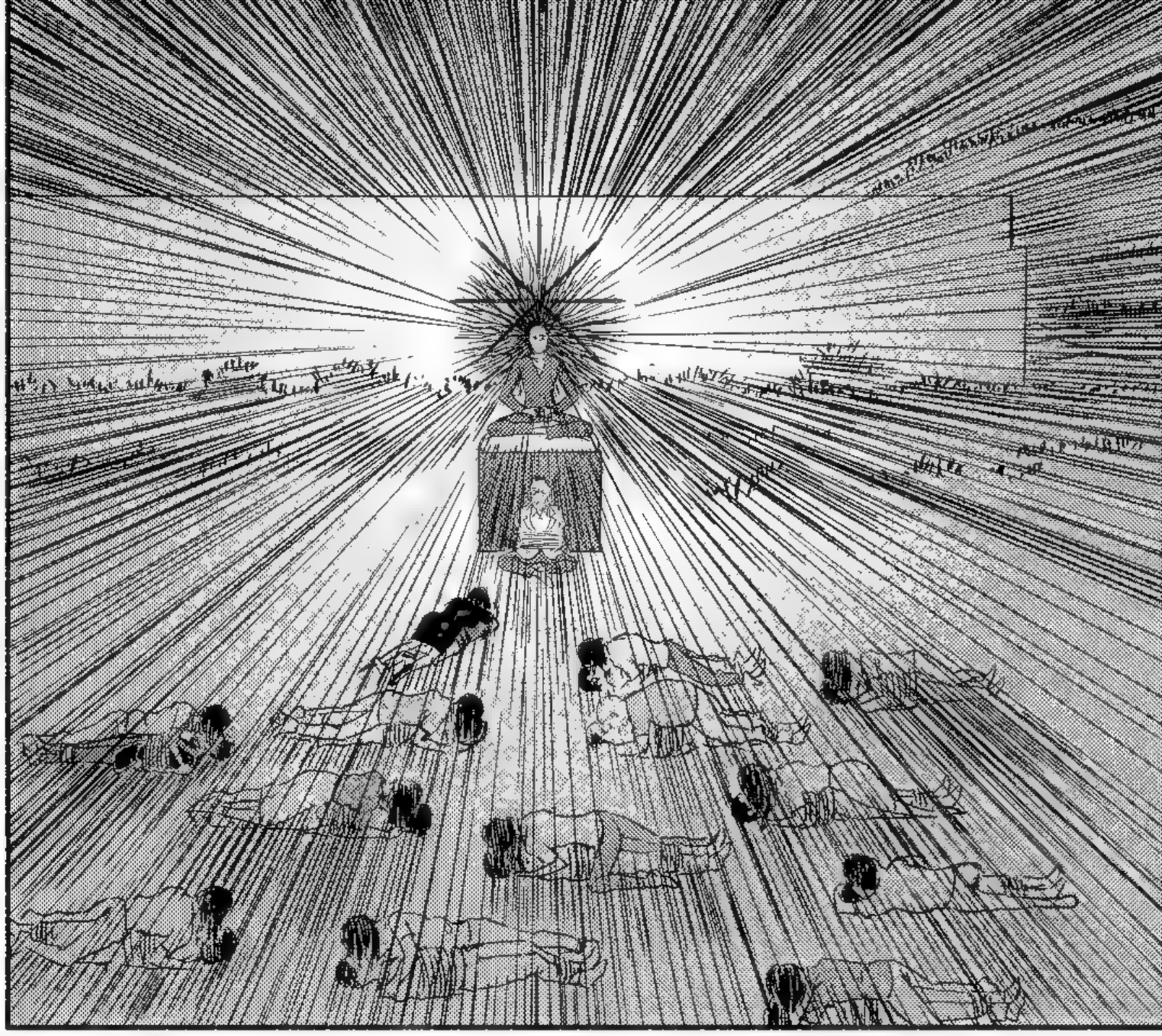
I'LL SUCK OUT EVERYTHING INSIDE OF YOU!

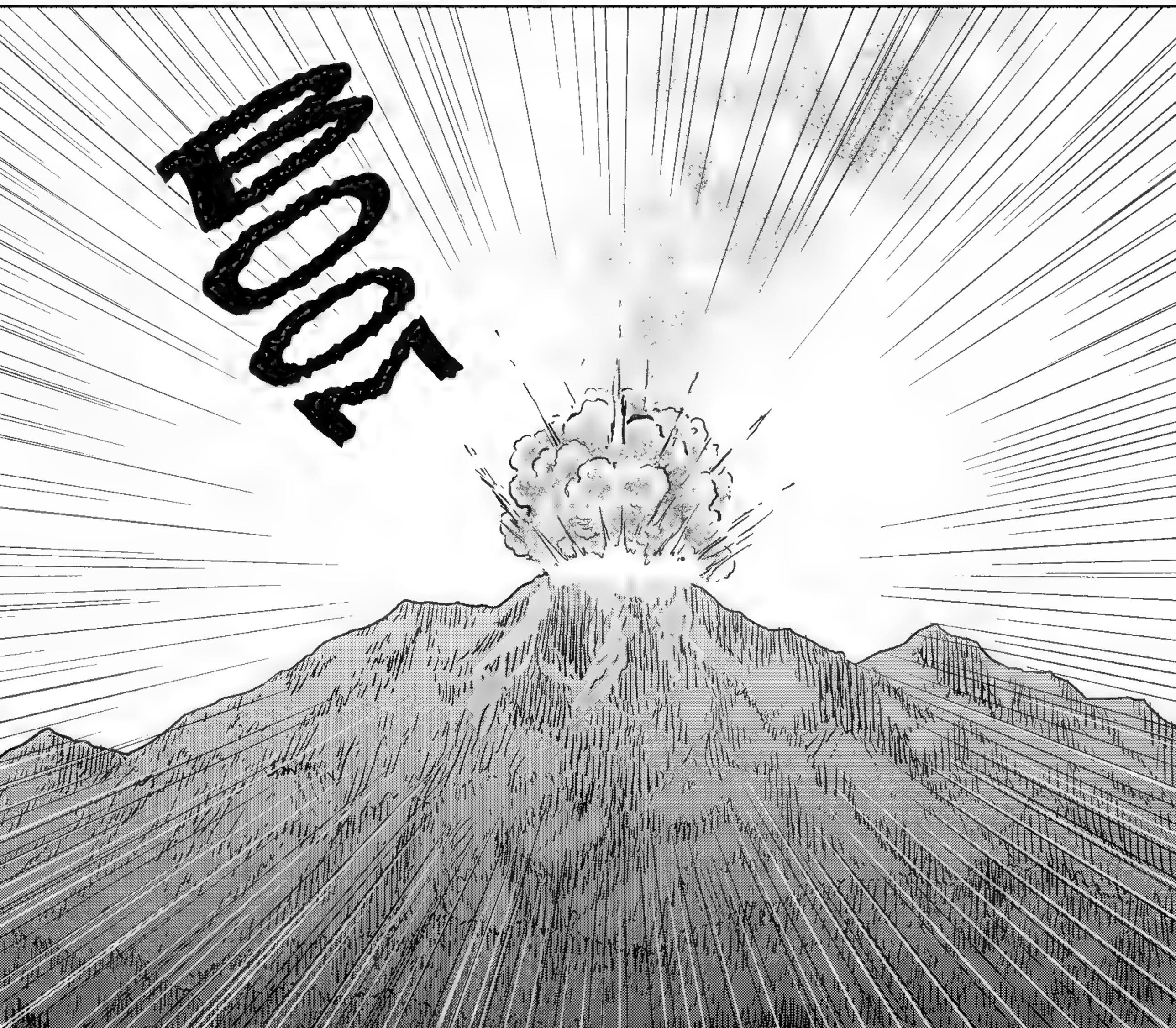
I'M NOT LETTING YOU GO!

BWAH!

AAAA



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W-
WHAT
...

EEEEEAH!

?!

BLACK VOLCANIC HAIR...

AUUUGH!

HNGAAH!

HELP MEEE!

AAH GAAA

WHAT ON EARTH ARE THEY SEEING?

WHAT ARE THEY FEELING?

EEEEE

THESE SCREAMS... THEY'RE NOT FROM THE ABDUCTEES. IT'S THE BELIEVERS.

THE AGONIZED SHRIEKS OF THE BELIEVERS.

HA AA

...EXPERI-ENCING THE FAR REACHES OF THE INFINITE!

RIGHT NOW, THEY MUST BE...

AAAI!

EEEE!

EEEEEEEE!

IN@OOOI!

EEEAAI!

ZZN ZZN

ZZZZZZ

ZZZ ZZZ ZZZ

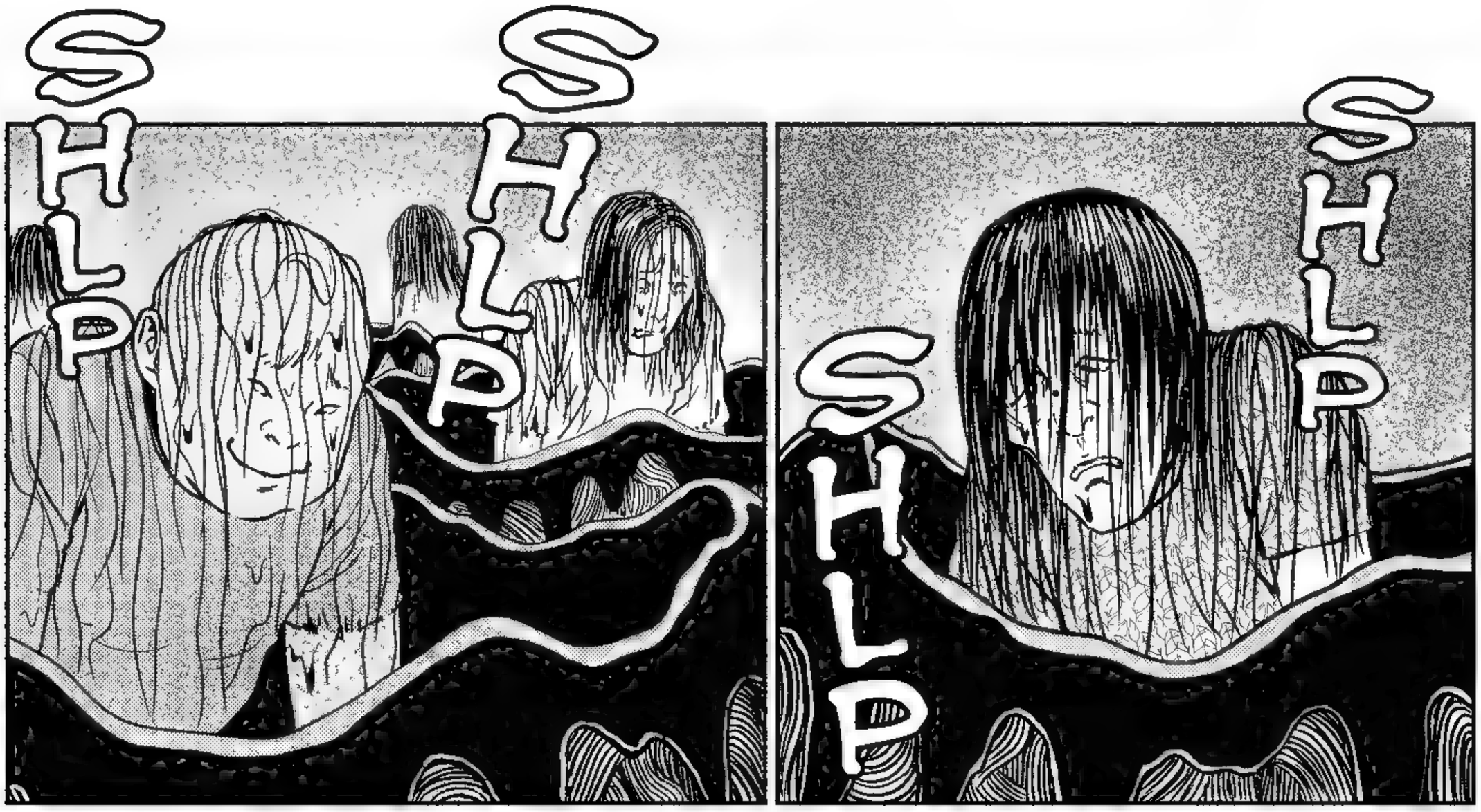
ZZZ ZZZ

BLRP BLRP BLRP

THEY'RE STARTING TO MELT.

BLRP BLRP BLRP

OOZE BUBBLE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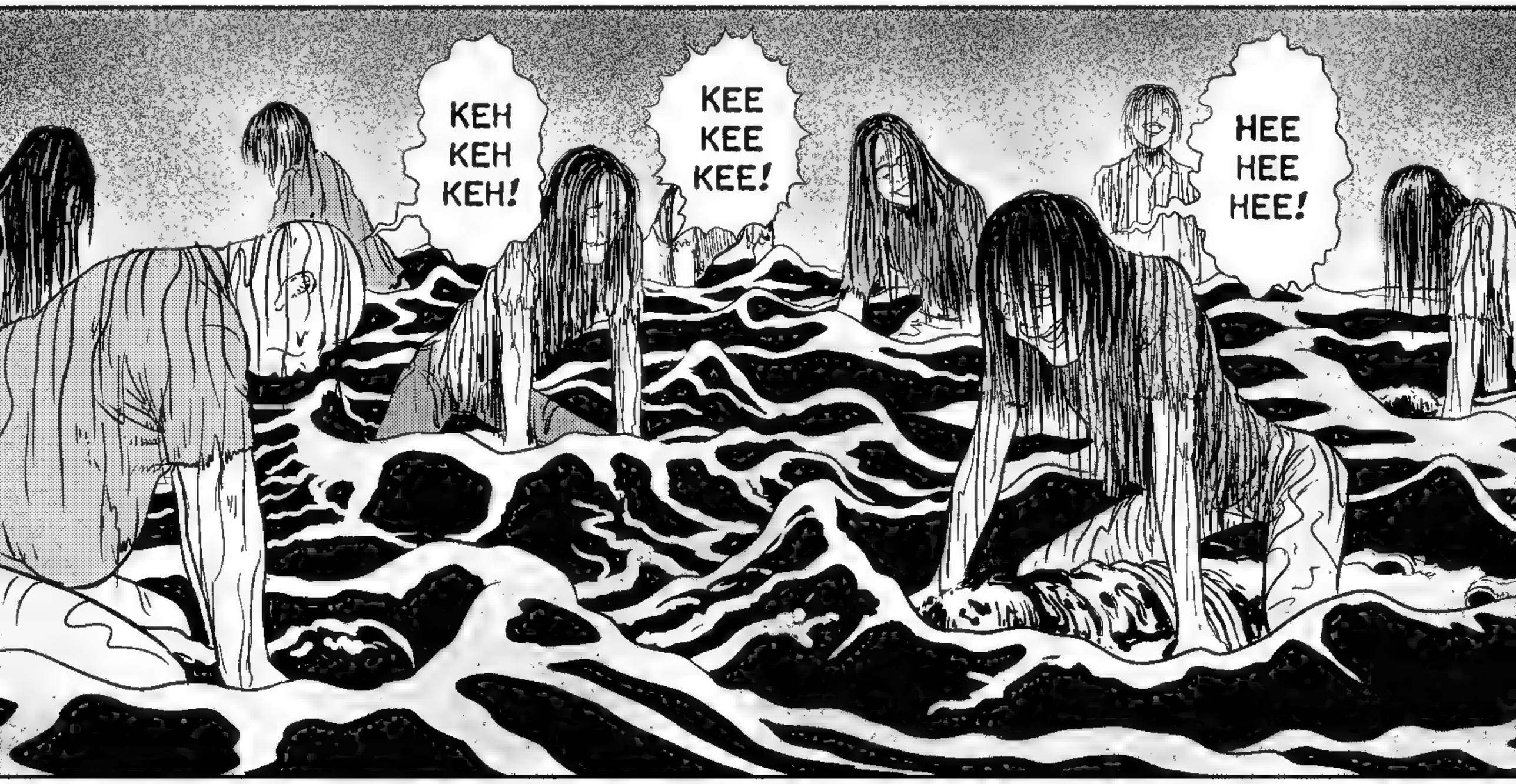

KEH KEH KEH!
KEE KEE KEE!
HEE HEE HEE!

HEE...HEE HEE!

HEE HEE HEE!

KEH KEH KEH!

WHAT ON EARTH...

WATARU'S GONE!

HE'S NOT HERE.

WATARU, WHERE ARE YOU?

WATARU ?

YOU'LL NEVER FIND HER, NO MATTER HOW YOU SEARCH.

HER... KYOKO BYAKUYA.

...

KYOKO BYAKUYA ...

...IS NOT IN THIS WORLD !!

WHERE AM I?

WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

...

WEIRD. IT JUST ERUPTED, BUT THERE'S NO SMOKE COMING FROM IT.

THAT'S MOUNT SENGOKU.

!

KYOKO BYAKUYA ...!

I FINALLY FOUND YOU.

...

Chapter 6 / END

Final Chapter

Light and Dark

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

YOU...

TSUCHI-YADO.

MS. BYAKUYA, IT'S ME.

?

I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW THAT MYSELF.

A DEEP DARKNESS IS COMING.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

WAIT!

AH!

WHAT?

AH!

...

THE VILLAGE OF KIYOKAMI ...

NO, THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS.

WASN'T KIYOKAMI WIPED OUT IN THE ERUPTION 62 YEARS AGO?

I DIDN'T KNOW WHY, BUT... I SENSED THAT THE SETTLEMENT BELOW US WAS KIYOKAMI.

IT'S ME.

LIKE A HOUSE FROM A PERIOD PIECE.

IT'S REALLY OLD.

HURRY! COME INSIDE!

KLATTER

KLATTER KLATTER

WHK

FWP FWP

WH-WHO ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE?

WHY ARE THEY DRESSED LIKE THAT?

HELLO ?

WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU ALL...

UM...

AND ALL THE SOR-ROWING PEOPLE ON EARTH...

AT THAT TIME, GOD WILL APPEAR.

...THE MOON AND STARS WILL LOSE THEIR LIGHT, AND AN ANOMALY WILL BE SEEN IN THE HEAVENLY BODIES.

AFTER THESE TRIALS, THE SUN WILL GROW DARK...

BLESSINGS.

SOB SOB...

...WILL SEE GOD SHINING WITH LIGHT.

F-FATHER MIGUEL?!

WHAT ?!

FATHER MIGUEL.

SUCH BLESS-INGS.

...

THE BLACK DARK-NESS IS APPROACH-ING.

FATHER MIGUEL, THE ANOMALY ...

WE SHOULD LEAVE HERE, GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.

B-BUT ...

I SHALL OBEY MY DESTINY.

ALL OF YOU, GO. I NO LONGER HAVE THE STRENGTH.

YES, WE CAN'T LEAVE YOU HERE TO DIE.

IF YOU'RE STAYING HERE, FATHER MIGUEL, THEN WE'LL STAY WITH YOU.

MIGUEL ...

COULD I HAVE ACTUALLY TRAVELED BACK IN TIME TO WHEN CHRISTIANITY WAS PROHIBITED ?!

...WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO ESCAPE THE SHOGUNATE OFFICIALS ANY NUMBER OF TIMES.

YOU'RE TRULY A MYSTICAL PERSON. THANKS TO YOUR GUIDANCE...

YOU'VE HELPED US AND FATHER MIGUEL SO MUCH SINCE YOU CAME TO OUR VILLAGE.

BUT MISS BYAKUYA, YOU CAME FROM ELSEWHERE. PLEASE FLEE.

SHE'S AN ANGEL!

FROM THE LOOK OF YOU, I'M SURE YOU'RE FROM THE WEST.

BUT WHERE DO YOU ACTUALLY HAIL FROM?

...

I JUST KNOW SHE'S AN ANGEL!

SHE IS! THAT'S RIGHT!

IT'S NOT TIME FOR SUNSET YET.

IT'S DARK OUTSIDE.

WHAT IS IT, MAGO-KICHI?

STRANGE.

THIS IS AN OMINOUS SIGN...

THE ANOMALY'S COMING, JUST LIKE MISS BYAKUYA SAID!

WHAT?

OH! YOU'RE RIGHT!

WE REALLY SHOULD MOVE.

FATHER MIGUEL, A SIGN. IT'S NOT GOOD.

...

WE MUST LEAVE, GO SOME-WHERE SAFER.

I'M BEGGING YOU.

PLEASE!

FATHER MIGUEL.

HM?!

I'M FACING A CRISIS OF FAITH. I'M TORTURED WITH GUILT FOR PUTTING THE VILLAGERS IN THIS PREDICAMENT.

PLEASE FORGET ABOUT ME.

I'M TIRED.

KYOKO...

LISTEN, WE'LL CARRY YOU, FATHER!

FATHER MIGUEL, WE SHOULD RUN.

WHY CAN I HEAR THEM?

FATHER MIGUEL, WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?!

THEY'RE COMMU-NICATING TELEPATHI-CALLY...

COME NOW! HURRY!

MISS BYAKUYA! PLEASE GUIDE US!

TING

TING

MISS BYAKUYA !

...

TING

TING

TING

TING

TRUDGE TRUDGE

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO.

W-WHAT? A MONK?

AH!

WE'RE TOO LATE!

OH NO!

YOU, CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY. YOUR LUCK'S RUN OUT AT LAST. COME QUIETLY NOW.

THE MONK HERE TOLD US WHERE YOU WERE.

YOU SLIPPED PAST ME BEFORE, BUT I FINALLY FOUND YOU.

YOU'RE A WESTERN PROSTITUTE ?!

WAIT. EXPOSED SKIN, STRANGE CLOTHES.

AND YOU! FROM THE COLOR OF YOUR HAIR, YOU'RE A WESTERNER, HM?

A MISSION-ARY? AH, BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A WOMAN MISSIONARY.

IS THIS SOME KIND OF THEATER?! TRYING TO PRETEND IT'S SOME PAST ERA?!

IF THIS IS A HIDDEN CAMERA THING, JUST QUIT IT ALREADY!

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?!

P-PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT!

I WAS IGNORED AGAIN?

WHY?

THAT'S WHERE YOU ALL ARE GOING.

THEY'VE BEEN ROUNDED UP IN THE VILLAGE PLAZA.

THE MONK HAS SMOKED OUT A DOZEN PEOPLE IN KIYOKAMI SUSPECTED OF BEING CHRISTIAN.

...

HM ?!

...THESE PEOPLE CAN'T SEE ME?!

MOVE!

MAYBE ...

TING

BY DOING SO, YOU ACKNOWLEDGE YOU'RE NOT CHRISTIAN, AND YOU'LL BE FREE TO GO.

YOU'LL STEP ON A LIKENESS OF JESUS NOW.

MAYBE THE WORK OF THE CHRISTIANS.

WEATHER'S ODD, HM? STILL DAYTIME BUT IT'S SO DARK.

SOME OF THEM WILL HAPPILY STEP ON IT IN FRONT OF OFFICIALS.

STEPPING ON A LIKENESS WON'T MEAN THEY'RE NOT CHRISTIAN.

HM?

THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.

TO START, WE MAKE THEM BEAR CROSSES AND CLIMB MOUNT SENGOKU.

THESE PEOPLE ARE DEFINITELY CHRISTIANS, AND THERE'S NO REFORMING THEM NOW!

SO THEN WHAT TO DO?

YOU'RE NOT DOING YOURSELF ANY FAVORS GETTING CARRIED AWAY HERE.

WE DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH THEM.

YOU.

TING

TING

TING

NO LAGGARDS!

CARRY THOSE CROSSES!

HURRY IT UP!

YOU'RE CLIMBING ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP OF MOUNT SENGOKU.

COME ON! MOVE IT!

PANT.

WHEEZE.

HAAH.

HAAH.

KYOKO!

HAAH.

HAAH.

COME ON, GRAB MY SHOUL-DERS.

WHAT? DON'T TRY TO ACT TOUGH.

ARE YOU OKAY? HANG ON TO ME!

I CAN'T.

WHAT ?!

MY HANDS WENT RIGHT THROUGH YOU.

OH!

YOU'RE ONLY SENSING THIS ERA.

I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, THOUGH.

?!

BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY HERE.

YOU CAN'T TOUCH US.

THUD

CRACK

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

KEEP CLIMBING!

FATHER MIGUEL!

I CAN WALK NO FARTHER.

COME ON, HOLD ON TO ME.

FATHER MIGUEL.

FATHER MIGUEL.

TO ASK YOU DIRECTLY.

TO MEET YOU.

I'VE COME FROM THE FUTURE.

THAT WAS YOUR WILL, WASN'T IT?

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ME?

I SURVIVED THE ERUPTION OF MOUNT SENGOKU ...

...AND GAINED A STRANGE POWER THAT MIGHT BE CALLED CLAIRVOY-ANCE.

RIGHT NOW, MY PSYCHIC EYE IS CLOSED, SO I CAN'T SEE YOUR WILL CLEARLY.

YOU CAN BE A POINT OF LIGHT IN IT.

THE TRUE NATURE OF THE UNIVERSE IS DARKNESS. THE UNIVERSE IS MADE OF DARKNESS.

GOD CHOSE YOU.

IT WAS NOT I WHO CHOSE YOU.

YOU ARE AN ANGEL.

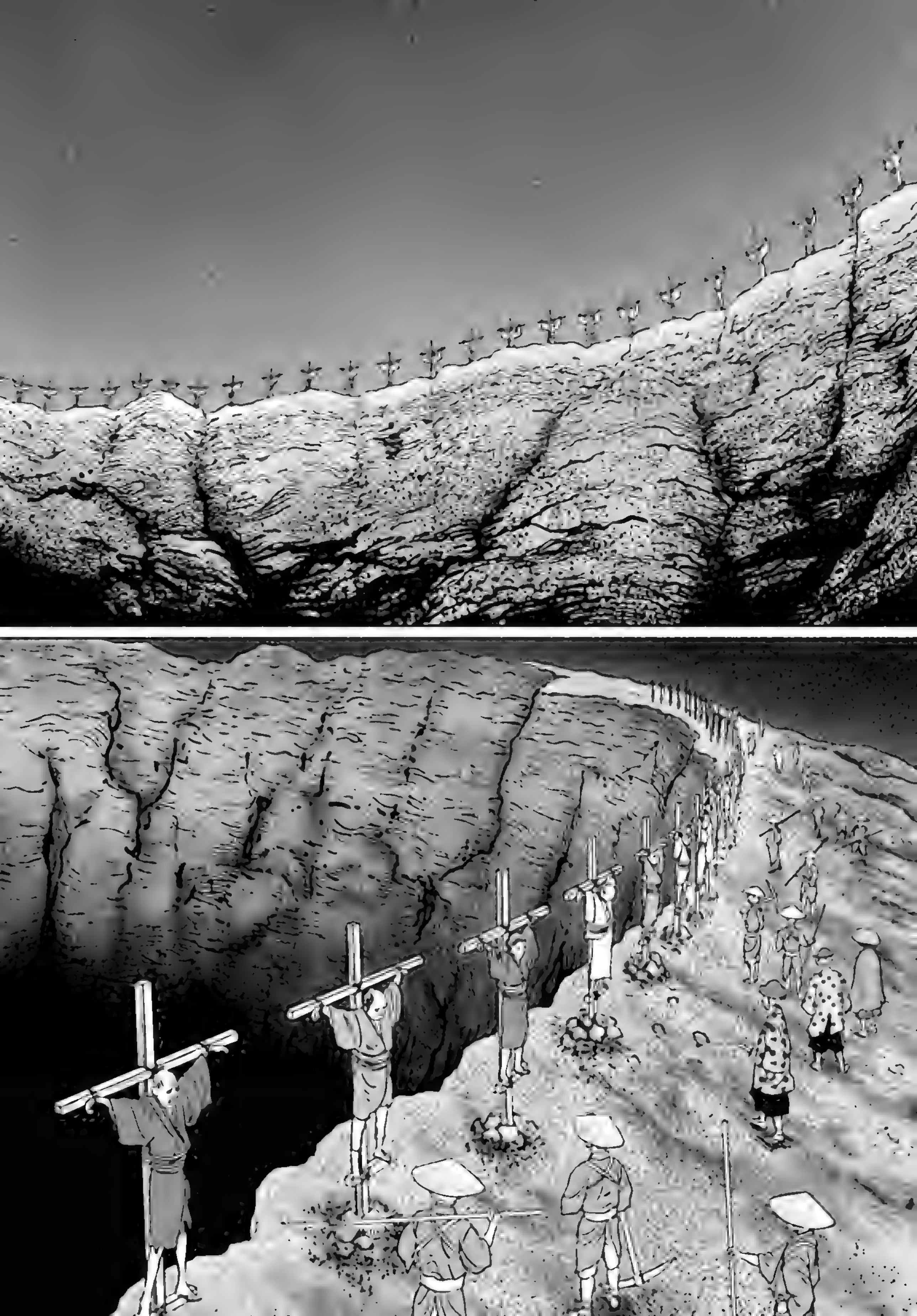
GOD GUIDED YOU TO KIYOKAMI AND GAVE YOU THIS CLAIRVOY-ANCE.

THAT LIGHT IS HOPE.

GOD CONSIDERS YOU A LIGHT OF HOPE.

TO SEE THROUGH TO THE DEEP ABYSS OF THE UNIVERSE WITH THIS POWER...

...AND CONQUER THE DARKNESS.



THEY'LL BE THE MATERIAL FOR SENGOKU'S VOLCANIC HAIR.

GO DOWN THE LINE AND KICK THEM AND THEIR CROSSES INTO THE VOLCANO.

BEGIN!

NOW!

AAAAAH!

AAAAAH!

NEXT!

HYAH!

THIS IS HORRIFIC!

DAMMIT!

I'LL ASK YOU.

MIGUEL.

OF COURSE ...

...

DID GOD CREATE THE UNIVERSE?

NO.

YOU'RE WRONG.

GOD SEPARATED NIGHT FROM DAY AND MADE THE EARTH, THE SEA, AND ALL LIVING CREATURES.

GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH.

...ESSENTIALLY DO NOT EXIST UNTIL I SENSE THEM.

THE SPACE, GAS, LIQUID AND STONE THAT EXIST IN THE UNIVERSE ...

THE UNIVERSE CAN EXIST BECAUSE *I* EXIST.

I MADE THE UNIVERSE. I AM THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE.

ACTUALLY, TO BE MORE PRECISE, *I WILL* BE THE CREATOR.

AND IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I LEARN THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE.

I GAVE SENGOKU'S JET-BLACK VOLCANIC HAIR A SHOCK TO AWAKEN IT.

AND WHEN I KILL HER, I WILL BECOME THE CREATOR.

I WILL STEAL KYOKO'S CLAIRVOY-ANCE.

I AM A PRESENCE UTTERLY BEYOND TIME.

AND IT SEEMS YOU ALSO GAINED SOME POWER, TSUCHIYADO.

YES. I OBTAINED GREAT POWER WHEN ENVELOPED IN THE JET-BLACK HAIR THAT DAY.

KAGERO AIDO FROM INDIGO SHADOW!

YOU!

I WILL HAVE THE AKASHIC RECORDS IN A MOMENT.

THE *COMPLETE* AKASHIC RECORDS.

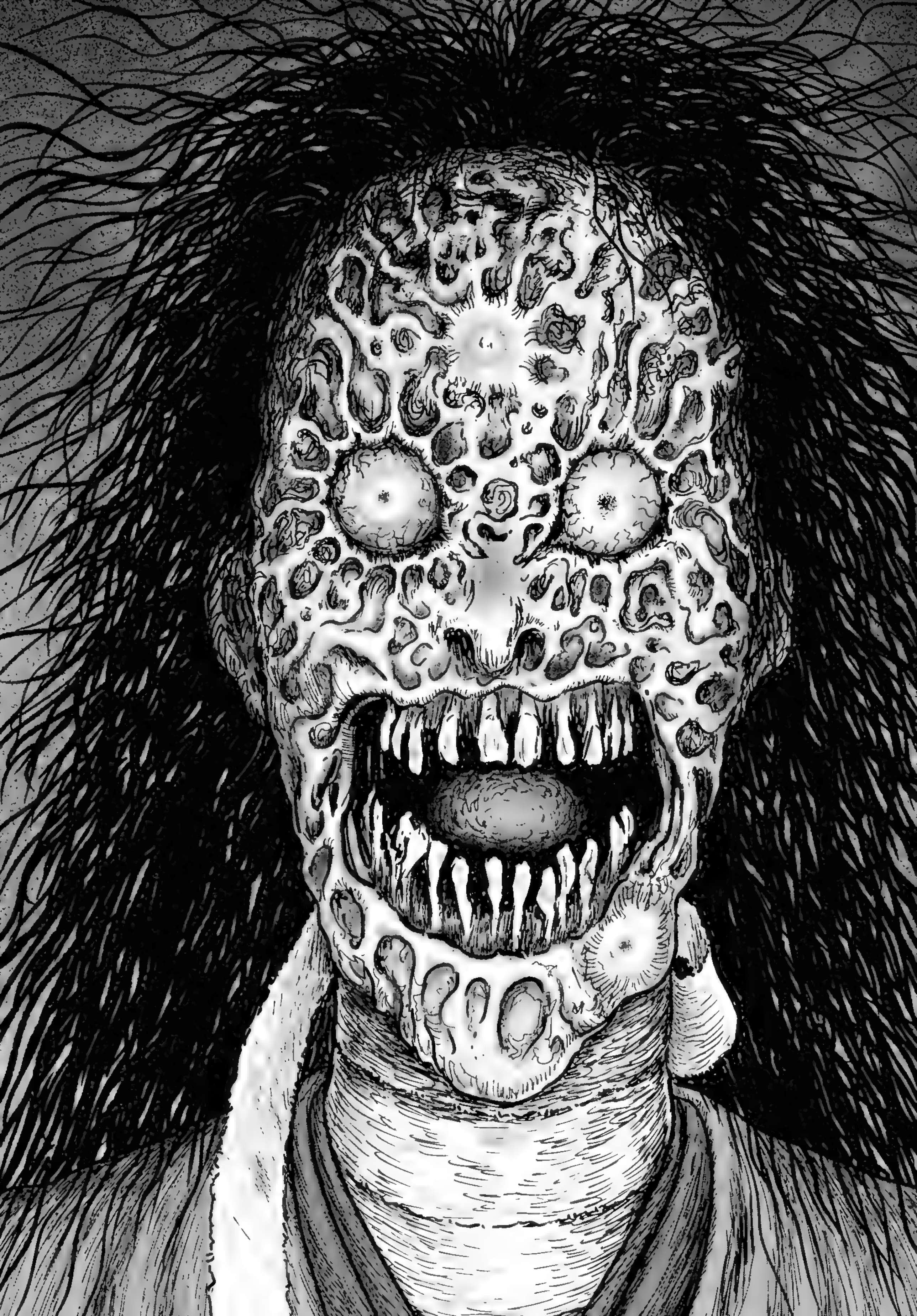
AAAAH!

YOU WERE ABLE TO TIME TRAVEL WITH ME. BUT YOUR POWER IS INSIGNIFICANT.

FLP

FOR THAT, I NEED KYOKO BYAKUYA'S PSYCHIC EYE.

FLP



I WILL TAKE YOUR CLAIRVOY-ANCE.

KYOKO BYAKUYA.

YOU SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT THIS POWER GOD GAVE ME.

JUST WAIT. I'LL RELEASE IT RIGHT NOW.

BUT IF YOU WANT IT, YOU CAN HAVE IT.

ALF

HS

HNGAAH
!

HNGH
...

☆※△×∞
+§#×≠Ψα
☆%□◎
×>

GOD
!

COME

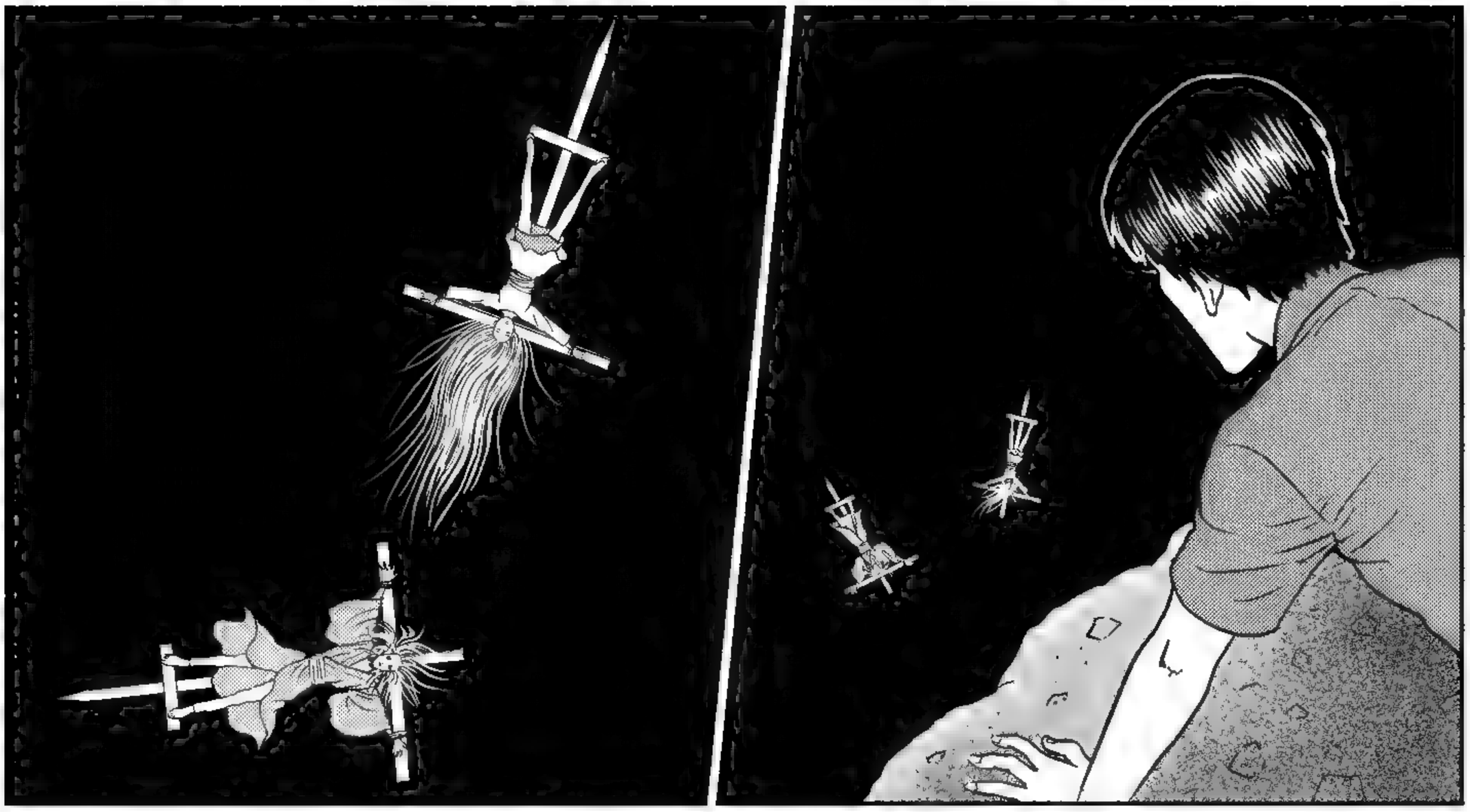
WHOOSH

IT WAS ALL OVER IN AN INSTANT.

A MASSIVE CLOUD OF JET-BLACK GAS SHOT UP INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE SKY AND DISAPPEARED.

KYOKO!

AAAH!



...TO BECOME A BALL OF DIVINE LIGHT.

KYOKO BYAKUYA'S GOLDEN HAIR WRAPPED AROUND BOTH OF THEM...

IT DISAPPEARED INTO THE DARKNESS.

WHERE ...

HUH?

AH!

WHAP

YOU WEREN'T THERE A MOMENT AGO.

TSUCHI-YADO! WHEN DID YOU—?

DR. KURO-DERA!

MOST LIKELY, THEY SAW THE FAR REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE.

THEY WERE ALL MAD WHEN THEY EMERGED FROM THE BLACK COCOONS.

HEE HEE HEE HEE

ALL THESE PEOPLE ...

HEH HEH

HEH HEH

...AND I BEGAN TO BE TROUBLED BY A BIZARRE VISION.

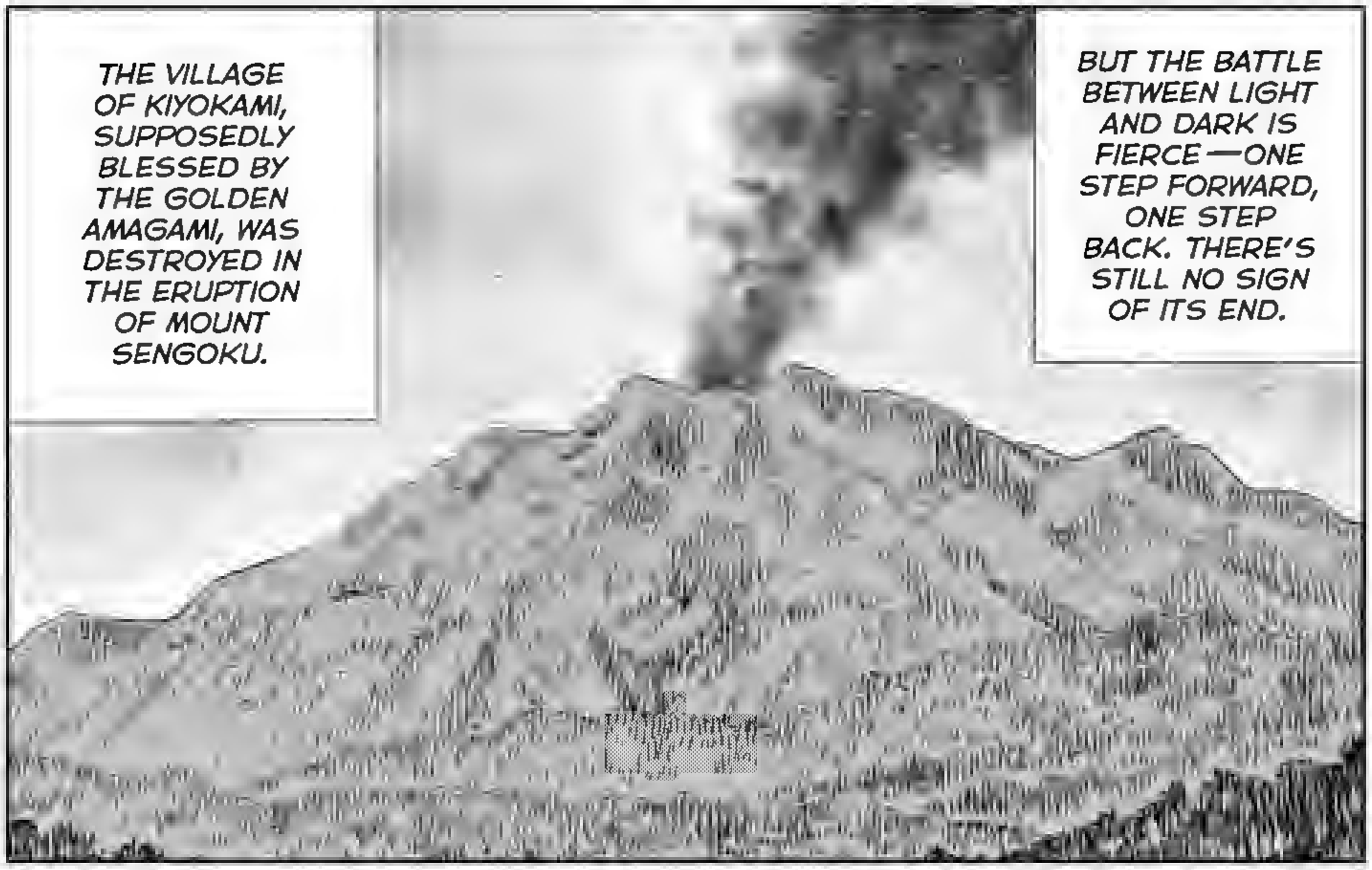
MY SENSES HAVE BEEN HEIGHTENED EVER SINCE...

IT WAS AN UNSETTLING JET-BLACK DARKNESS.

I SENSED THAT THE DARKNESS WOULD NOT WIN OVER THIS LIGHT.

THIS LIGHT SEEMED TO GROW EACH AND EVERY DAY.

BUT THERE WAS ONE POINT OF LIGHT INSIDE.


THE VILLAGE OF KIYOKAMI, SUPPOSEDLY BLESSED BY THE GOLDEN AMAGAMI, WAS DESTROYED IN THE ERUPTION OF MOUNT SENGOKU.
BUT THE BATTLE BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARK IS FIERCE—ONE STEP FORWARD, ONE STEP BACK. THERE'S STILL NO SIGN OF ITS END.

THE JOURNEY TO LIGHT'S VICTORY IS STILL AHEAD.

Final Chapter / END

AFTERWORD

The manga that I first serialized as *Travelogue of the Succubus* has now been released in book form under the new title, *Sensor*. I'd titled it *Travelogue of the Succubus* based on the rough structure I'd come up with before the series began, but as I progressed with the work, I moved away from that structure, and as a result of changing course, a discrepancy arose between the title and the completed story. Originally, I was going to have Kyoko Byakuya as a narrator, like Orochi in Kazuo Umezz's *Orochi* or Reijiro Hieda in Daijiro Morohoshi's *Yokai Hunter*. I wanted to do a story of the curious incidents she encounters while traveling to different places.

However... I miscalculated. First of all, Kyoko accidentally becomes something more than a narrator in chapter one when she ends up getting ahold of the "mystery of the universe," a very important key. On top of that, she's quite the mysterious character, so she wouldn't do what I wanted and was extremely uncommunicative. Because of that, she wasn't a suitable narrator. To fill in the gap, I brought the reporter Wataru Tsuchiyado into the story and tried to put him in the position of a narrator of sorts, but he also rebelled against me and became quite passionate about Kyoko Byakuya, and started to pursue her rather than the curious incidents that happened during her travels.

I'd often heard how characters start to move on their own in long-form manga, but I'd never been able to understand it. Do characters really just move around on their own? The writer controls the story, though?

But with this book, the characters might have been moving on their own for me for the first time. And they went in a strange direction. Kyoko refused to be the narrator and was always going off and hiding somewhere. Wataru wouldn't write any reports despite being a reporter. Aah, if only the characters would have actually listened to me, this could have turned out so much differently.

I'll end the excuses here. To be honest, the original structure was vague, and a homebody like me who never does enough advance prep could never have written a travelogue, so this is really the result of the bus driving away before everyone is on board.

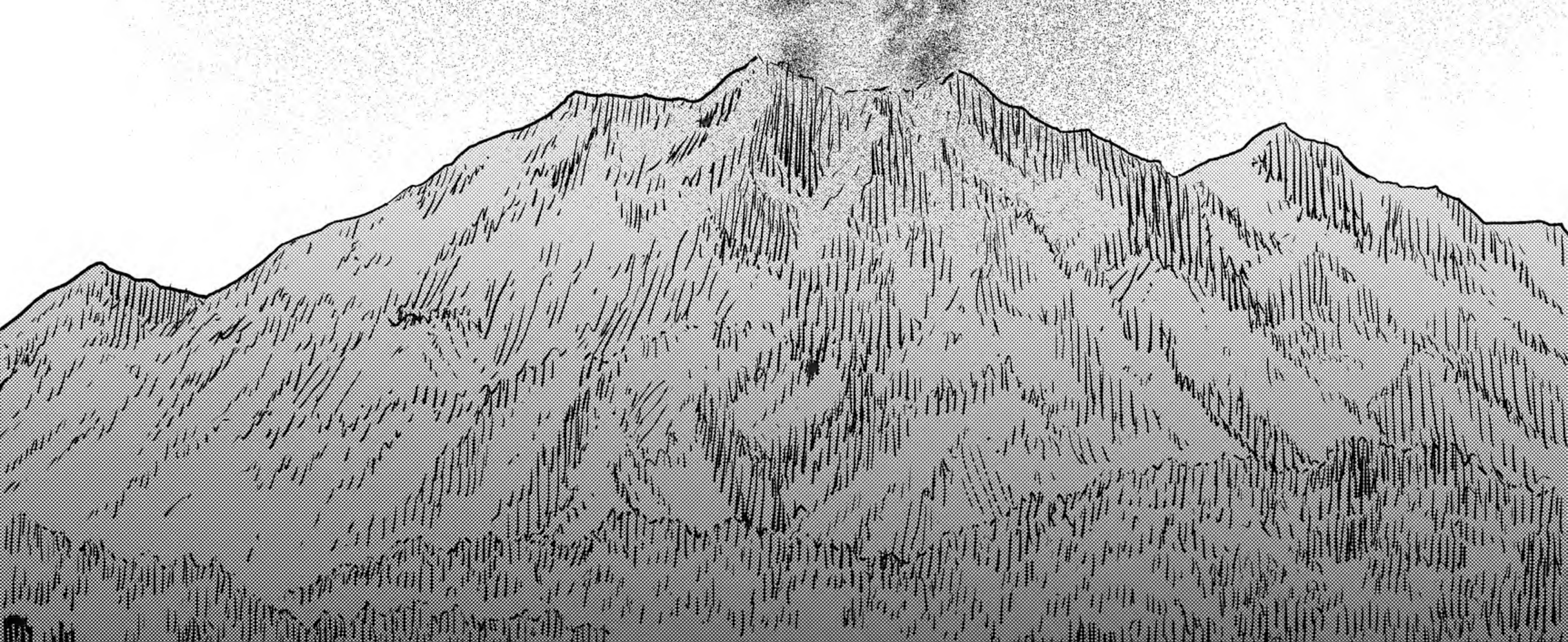
But it's not all bad. I don't hate any of the characters, and I do want to write their stories if I get the chance again.

I have to write a thousand words for this afterword, so I went on and on there about things that really didn't need to be said. But even the great Edogawa Ranpo wrote masochistic essays about his own work, so it's all fine and good, yes?

To conclude, my editor Makiko Hara was of great help once again. She gave me all kinds of advice and got everything arranged so that the story became a proper book. Kazuhiro Fukaumi designed the wonderful cover that turned Kyoko Byakuya into some kind of goddess. And I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to everyone at Asahi Shimbun Publications, who are always so good to me.

—JUNJI ITO

October 1, 2019



SENSOR

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
SENSOR is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains graphic violence and horror themes.

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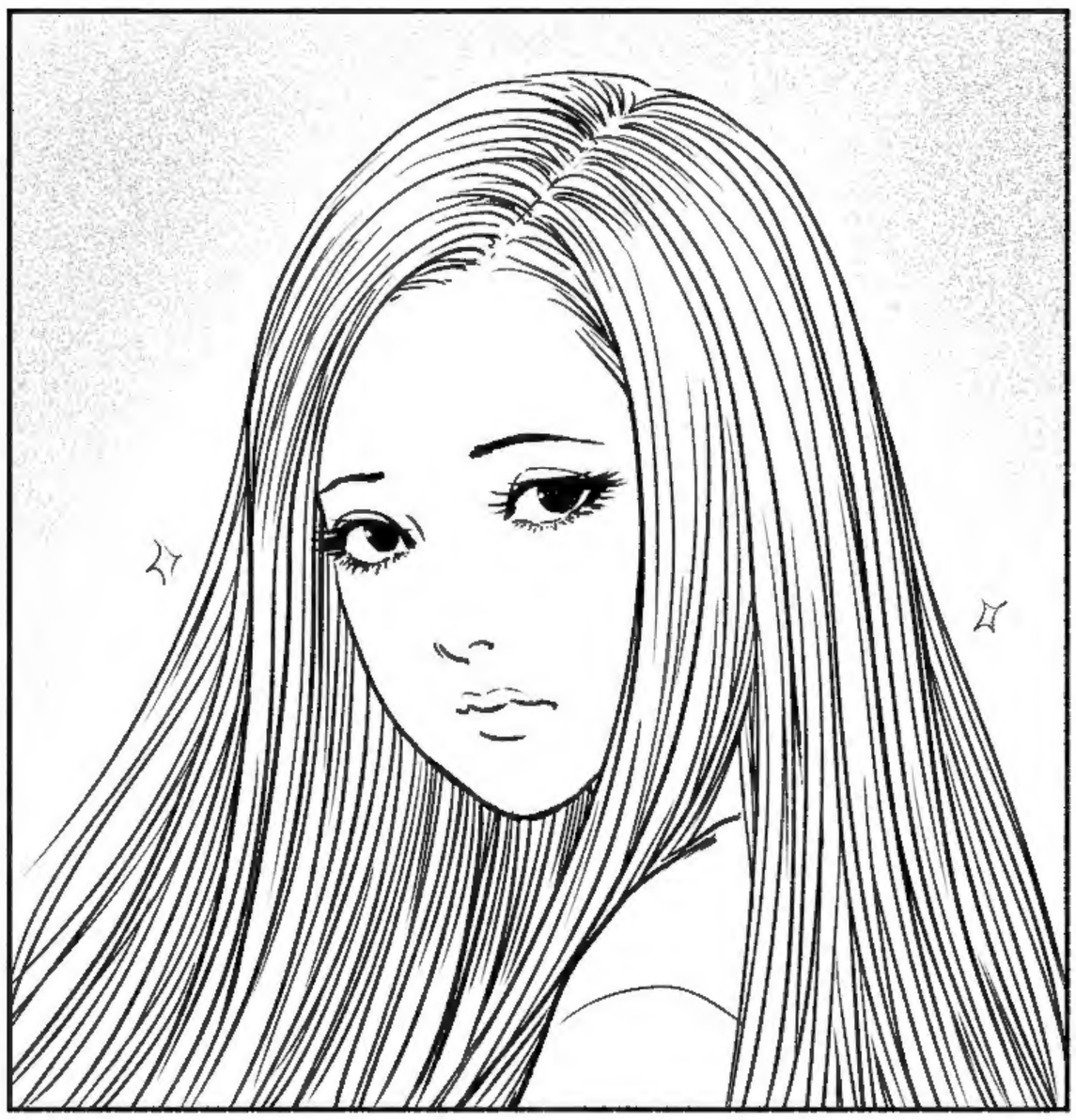
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